

BUCKEYE

GUARD

Winter 1998/1999



ALEXANDER

U.S.

End of an Era

Alexander retires from the Ohio National Guard

PAGES 7-11



To All Members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard

1998 Holiday Greetings

May this holiday season find you and your families at peace and filled with the joy that comes with sharing special moments with loved ones. You are in our thoughts during this time when blessings are counted and fellowship with cherished friends is treasured.

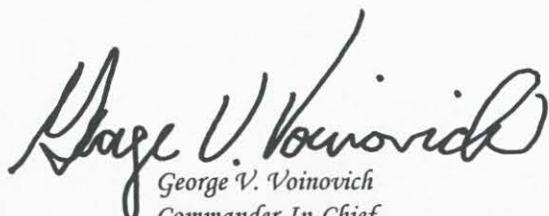
This holiday season is special to us both, as it notes the end of our tenures as Governor and Adjutant General. The successes that came in working with people dedicated to serving their state and nation have made this chapter in our lives extremely rewarding and momentous.

As we look back over what has been achieved throughout our terms of office, the contributions of Ohio's National Guard members to state and nation are nothing less than extraordinary. Through reductions in force and budget shortfalls, Ohio's National Guard has not only survived, but has increased its participation in worldwide contingencies, state emergencies and community efforts.

In 1998 alone, nearly 1,000 soldiers and airmen volunteered to help neighbors in need after devastating floods. Federal missions included peacekeeping missions for Operation JOINT GUARD in Bosnia, and support of the no fly zones over Iraq in Operations NORTHERN WATCH and SOUTHERN WATCH. Relations across the world were enriched in Hungary through additional contacts in the State Partnership Program, and at home, with thousands of children and underserved community members supported. With each new year, the National Guard finds itself with a larger circle of friends.

Your dedication and resolve have defined the spirit of the citizen soldier and a truly unique organization. Americans entrust you with their freedom, and you stand prepared to defend its value. Ohioans entrust you with protecting their lives and property for which you sacrifice the comforts of your own home and family. During this holiday season, may you share in the warmth and togetherness of family gatherings, knowing that through your service, all Americans enjoy the blessings of peace.

From the Offices of the Governor and the Adjutant General, thank you for your contributions to the Ohio National Guard, our state, and the nation. To each of you and your loved ones, have a safe and happy holiday season.



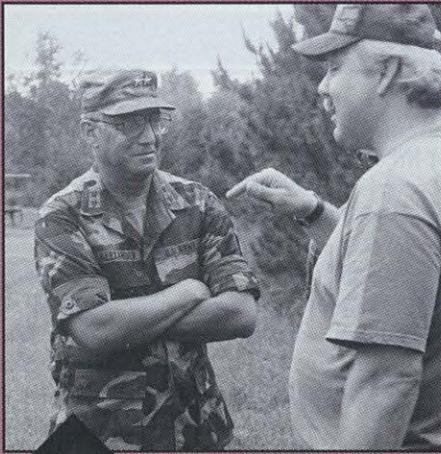
*George V. Voinovich
Commander-In-Chief
Governor, State of Ohio*



*Richard C. Alexander
Major General
Adjutant General*

BUCKEYE GUARD

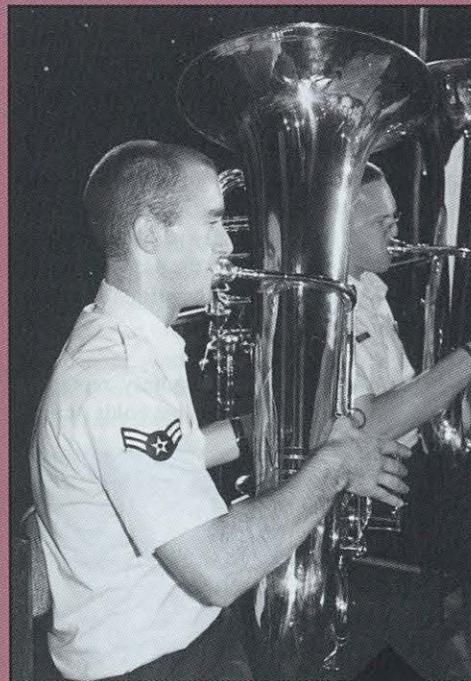
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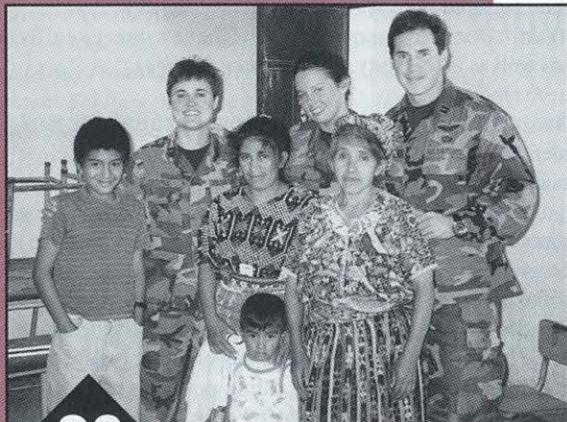
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ABOUT THE COVER: After 11 years as leader of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander retires from military service on Dec. 31, 1998. A look back at the career of the state's longest-serving and first African-American adjutant general is offered on pages 7-11. *Cover design by Sgt. Don Flowers, HQ STARC (-).*

BUCKEYE GUARD

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Maj. Gen. John H. Smith

Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. John S. Martin

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadlines are:

Winter: October 15
Spring: January 15
Summer: April 15
Fall: July 15

NATIONAL NEWS

President signs defense authorization bill. With the stroke of a pen Oct. 17, President Clinton signed the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Authorization Bill into law, setting the stage for a 3.6 percent military pay raise Jan. 1, and other quality-of-life and readiness enhancements. Highlights of the bill include imminent danger pay policy for reservists; increased hazardous duty pay for enlisted flight personnel; extending re-enlistment bonuses to active-duty reservists; and retention incentives for critically short military occupational specialties. The defense authorization also includes provisions to improve military health care including reform of the military pharmacy system. The secretary of defense will submit a plan to Congress by March 1 for a system-wide redesign. A three-year demonstration program will let Medicare-eligible retirees and their families enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program starting Jan. 1, 2000. Dollars also will flow into military construction in the areas of family housing, troop housing and child development centers. The act also expands commissary benefits, raising from 12 to 24 the number of days per year that certain Ready Reserve members and Reserve retirees younger than 60 may use commissary stores. National Guardmembers are now allowed to use commissaries while they are called-up for federally declared disasters. To ease the strain on reservists caused by increased deployments, reduced personnel and long distances some must travel to train with their units, they now may use government airfares when traveling to weekend drills. (*Air Force Print News*)

Top Army NCO explains APFT standards delay. Army Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Hall said the reason for delaying implementation of the new Army Physical Fitness Test standards was in part because new score cards weren't ready for the scheduled Oct. 1 change. Also, "we did not get the feedback from commanders," Hall said. "Only a few commanders came back with feedback in a year, so it came down to a last second delay." He addressed how the new standards will affect NCO course attendance in the future. "We have sent this out to each major command's command sergeant major, so we need feedback, but the APFT will be part of the academic requirements for a course. A soldier will be enrolled in a course, given the test, if they flunk they will be re-tested later, if they pass, fine. If they fail the second time, they will be removed from the promotion list and get a bullet of being an APFT failure on their 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report). They will also be released from the course," he said. (*Army News Service*)

DoD tells services to align fraternization policies. While adultery remains unacceptable behavior for service members, a new Defense Department directive holds Army officers and enlisted soldiers to even stricter fraternization rules, under which those in current relationships may be required to choose between marriage or breaking up. The directive is a result of studies made by a joint-service task force formed last year by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. While present Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps policies allow no fraternization between officers and enlisted service members, internal Army policy up to now has been somewhat more liberal. Army-wide consensus was that officers and enlisted members were allowed to date as long as they weren't within the same unit or chain of command. The new directive brings the Army in line with policies of the other services, which prohibit any intimate officer-enlisted relationships. Existing marriages between officers and enlisted would be "grandfathered" as the new directive takes effect. Presumably, time would be factored in to allow non-married officer-enlisted couples to get married or follow another course. The new directive affects reserve component service members as well as active duty. (*Army News Service*)



Cohen

Senior enlisted advisors now command chief master sergeants. Senior enlisted advisors became command chief master sergeants Nov. 1, a name change that more closely aligns their job titles to their service counterparts. Command chief master sergeants will also wear a distinctive new chevron, which is going through the procurement process. In conversational address, command chief master sergeants, or CCMs, will still be referred to as chief, just like all other chief master sergeants. "This important decision aligns our SEA positions with their service counterparts," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric Benken. "At a time when joint operations are increasing, our chiefs assigned to joint SEA-equivalent positions should be as easily identifiable to the troops as command sergeants major or command master chief petty officers. Every service makes this distinction." Benken emphasized that only those chiefs filling positions will carry the command chief master sergeant title and wear the new chevron. (*Air Force Print News*)

Web address changed

Several e-mails were received concerning a brief about the Army Correspondence Course Program on the Internet that ran in the Fall 1998 edition of the *Buckeye Guard*.

People who tried to access the web site at the address provided were given an "unable to connect to server" message and were denied access to the site.

The reason for this problem is that the web address has been changed by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), administrator of the Army Correspondence Course Program.

Interested Internet users will find that by typing in 155.217.35.238/accp/aipd.htm they will be able to access the site.

Buckeye Guard staff

Soldier raises question of course accessibility

I am concerned about the article "Army correspondence courses go on-line," which appeared in the Fall 1998 *Buckeye Guard*.

It implies that most courses will no longer be paper-based, but instead be web-based only. This is great in terms of speeding things up by not dealing with the mail, paperwork, etc, but what about the soldiers who do not have access to the Internet? The distance learning program, from what I understand, is set up only in certain areas of the state which are not always near to a soldier's home residence or convenient to the soldier's time schedule.

With the emphasis placed on the education of soldiers, especially when dealing with promotion points, I feel this is a problem which needs to be addressed.

Spc. William Tucker
323rd Military Police Company

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Soldiers who don't own computers or aren't connected to the Internet can enroll in the Army Correspondence Course Program through their units via the computerized Army Training Requirements and Resources System. Soldiers should be able to schedule time with their unit orderly room to access ATRRS during weekend drills. While the course catalog now is computerized, actual coursework in most subject areas still may be conducted traditionally through the mail.*

As the distance learning program evolves, the plan is for every guardmember in Ohio eventually to be less than one hour in travel time from a distance learning center that allows access to on-line computers, including during evenings and weekends.

Question of the Quarter

What do you think about the newly defined Defense Department policy on fraternization?

EDITOR'S NOTE: *There have been few responses to the "Question of the Quarter" since its inception nearly a year ago, and it is time to ask readers: Should this feature continue?*

Remember, the Feedback page is the chance for our readership not only to respond to any posed questions, but also to share information or to sound off on any issue regarding the military or the Ohio National Guard. It is up to our readers to use this forum!

Our policy: anonymous letters won't be published, but names can be withheld upon request.

Photos, stories about Guard aircraft sought

Historian Charles Gross is searching for photos of tanker and transport planes used by the National Guard over the past four decades. He is studying their evolution since the 1950s.

Gross is interested in photos showing the people who worked with the planes as well as those taken during Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars. He also would like to receive stories and anecdotes about missions and what it was like to work on the planes. He is writing an article for publication in a historical magazine.

Photos and letters may be sent to Charles Gross, NGB-PA 1-H, Park Center IV, Room 450, 4501 Ford Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22302-1454, or phone (703) 681-0719.

220th NCO pays tribute to all veterans

In an issue of *Air Force Times*, I read an article about the number of World War II veterans who are turned down by the active duty for military honors at burial. It talked about how the National Guard is now authorized to perform this duty. It also spoke of the situation of smaller military forces and fewer dollars and that it was unclear what might happen in the future.

My wife's uncle was one of these veterans. He was a WWII veteran and former prisoner of war. Upon his death the active duty was unable to fulfill the family's request for military honors. When I was notified I checked but, to my

dismay, we hadn't made plans to do this and money and personnel were an issue.

Thanks to the American Legion, he received this honor from his fellow veterans and the country he served. Thanks to all of the veterans organizations, we are able to give these veterans the honor they deserve at burial.

I wrote this poem in honor of my wife's uncle, Fedroe Adams. Today I would like it to be a gift of gratitude to all veterans of all wars of this country for the freedom we enjoy today.

Master Sgt. Russell D. Harless
220th EIS

An Old Soldier's Poem: In Memory of Fedroe Adams

*We bury an old soldier today,
he goes to his reward
We lay to rest a warrior,
whose put to sheath his sword
He fought for God and Country,
some remember—some do not
The sacrifices made so long ago,
they must not be forgot
We call that war now history,
of fifty years and more
This country sent its very best,
to fight on foreign shores
We think it not convenient now,
to give Honor to these men
It must have been more convenient,
to sacrifice back then
For Mothers who displayed Gold Stars,
for soldiers cold and tired
Longing for the warmth of home,
facing enemy fire
For those who did not make it home,
for those who were in prisons
For those whose bodies show the scars,
for those whose souls have risen
I'll not forget Old Soldiers,
our freedom they did save
And when they enter Heaven,
their banners there will wave
God Bless our Honored Heroes,
welcome them onto your shores
And may the Freedom that they won,
be ours forevermore*

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. E-mail letters to buckeye@OH-ARNG. ngb.army.mil or buckeye>tagoh.org. or mail to AGOH-PA, ATTN: Buckeye Guard, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.



Command Focus

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, Adjutant General

Adjutant general of 11 years bids fond farewell

Alexander credits guardmembers' commitment, flexibility for organization's success

As I reflect on my 11 years as adjutant general, I have many fond memories of what our soldiers and airmen have accomplished for Ohio, our country and around the world. I've always believed that we are this nation's only community-based, global defense force. Whether mentoring youth in our local schools, responding to state emergencies or keeping the peace in Bosnia, we have a proud tradition of meeting the needs of the citizenry. That is what sets this organization apart from all others.

We have faced many hardships together, however each time you responded with the citizen-soldier spirit that has characterized the National Guard. There is no tougher job I can think of than that of the citizen-soldier. Our obligation to the Guard competes with our commitments to our family and our personal vocation. We ourselves make sacrifices, yet we must ask others to support us with their very own sacrifices. Through this, we engage our communities and our families in the defense of our country.

We cannot do it without them.

It is because of this unique relationship we have, and your dedication to preserving and building those relationships, that we are successful.

Leadership at all levels has an appreciation for the environment we live and work in today as members of the National Guard. They know now what we have always known:

When called, the Guard is ready, willing and able to perform its mission worldwide. You have proven it time and time again.

Over this past year alone, the Ohio Air

National Guard sent units to patrol the skies of Iraq and support coalition aircraft in Bosnia, while two Ohio Army Guard units completed grueling 270-day deployments to Bosnia. While all of this was going on, 950 personnel from 26 different units responded to flooding in south-eastern Ohio that killed 12 and left 5,000 homeless.

Our organization has been flexible and has shown the ability to react simultaneously worldwide and at home. Few other organizations, whether in the public or private sector, can do the same.

We have focused a tremendous amount of energy in the Ohio Guard in our mission of supporting local communities through "value added" programs such as Adopt-A-School and Drug Demand Reduction. Your professional and caring attitude while helping your neighbors has been evident in the numerous national awards and recognition we have received.

Perhaps more than anything else, there is a heightened awareness, and hence, a new appreciation for what we do, day in and day out, for our country. This is evidenced by the fact that we are called on to assist with issues that span a broad spectrum.

When the governor called on Ohio's state agencies to adopt schools to enhance education, we adopted more than 100!

When the educators needed assistance with the ninth grade proficiency test, they called on the Guard to help with tutoring.

And when law enforcement needed help with reducing the demand and supply of drugs reaching the streets of Ohio communities, they called on the Guard.

It is amazing, yet truly satisfying, to see our

re-transformation from a cold war organization back to a community-based defense force. It has paid large dividends, due to your commitment to that transformation. There is a renewed awareness worldwide of our reputation. It is no wonder we once again were capable of meeting end strength goals during 1998 while other services failed. The quality process has proven that our success is a credit to you all, and not just a handful of leaders. And if we are to retain that success, your actions will be the measuring stick.

If there is to be a legacy that I leave behind, it will not be a legacy of what I have accomplished. It will be a legacy of what each soldier and airman in the Ohio National Guard accomplished in making us successful during my tenure.

As we begin to see increases in resources, material and the budget, you will realize your reward for this hard work. We must stay the course, and continue to build on our success. Our accomplishments, and our soldiers and airmen, are our credentials, and they speak for themselves.

Decision-makers will take advantage of our ability to satisfy the needs of this nation at home and abroad because of what you have accomplished. You can all be proud of that, and as I prepare to move on, I will leave knowing that you deserve credit for the accomplishments and the high esteem people have of the Ohio National Guard.

As many of you know, I will continue to have my finger on the pulse of the National Guard as I accept my responsibilities as the executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States. I will continue to rely on your spirit, enthusiasm and motivation to tell the Guard story.

On behalf of my family, thank you for the inspiration you have given me to lead you. We will be in touch, and I look forward to serving you as always. ■

"If there is to be a legacy that I leave behind, it will be ... what each soldier and airman in the Ohio National Guard accomplished in making us successful...."

Senior Army Advisor provides support, guidance to National Guard leadership

By Spc. Steve Toth
HQ STARC (-)

Realizing the need for a constant link between the active Army and its reserve components, the Army created the Senior Regular Army Advisory Group. Under the program, senior level officers are assigned to states' Army National Guard headquarters as well as Army Reserve headquarters elements throughout the United States.

Col. Kenneth Guillory is currently assigned as the Senior Regular Army Advisor-Guard (SRAAG) to the Ohio Army National Guard, commonly referred to as the Senior Army Advisor. The position is usually filled by a colonel and, in some states with fewer personnel, a lieutenant colonel.

Guillory is an Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM veteran who served 7 1/2 months in the Persian Gulf from September 1990 to April 1991. His previous assignment was as commander of the On-Site Inspection Agency, European Operations, the U.S. Government arms

control element in the European Theater. Guillory is a field artillery officer who replaced Col. Robert Kemp when Kemp retired in July.

In the first reserve component assignment of his career, Guillory discovered the job is never the same from day to day.

"It's definitely not routine," he said. "It depends on what the state needs—what the adjutant general and assistant adjutant general want out of the position. (In Ohio) they want me to be the liaison with the 1st Army, one of the two Continental United States Armies."

First U.S. Army, headquartered at Fort Gillem, Ga., has responsibility for training and readiness of reserve component forces east of the Mississippi River; 5th U.S. Army, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has the same responsibility for units in western states.

Most Senior Army Advisors find themselves dealing with those two major issues—training and readiness. Guillory attends training meetings at Ohio Army National Guard headquarters in Columbus as well as training briefs presented by the major subordinate commands. He regularly advises OHARNG training personnel on Army doctrine and ways to improve training for soldiers and units. Guillory said Ohio's training plan is well structured and maintained.

"It's been my experience so far that Ohio does a good job of managing the training process properly," Guillory said. "It says to me that we

are holding people to the standard."

With the aid of Sgt. Maj. Robert Rush, SRAAG sergeant major, Guillory visits various Army Guard units around the state. He has made recent visits to the 37th Armor Brigade during its simulation exercise in September and to the 1-148th Infantry during its annual training in August at Camp Ripley, Minn.

"We have units scattered all over the state. We're going to visit them," Guillory said. "I like to go out there and talk to commanders and their leadership, find out what their visions are for their units and if there are any issues or questions that I can help them with—can I get something for them through active Army channels?"

"The SRAAG knows or can find out what buttons to push to come up with something through the active Army. We assist units in getting training resources, to include personnel."

Another responsibility of the senior army advisor is to monitor Ohio Army National Guard units' compliance with Army policies and regulations

as they relate to mobilization readiness. Guillory sends a report to 1st U.S. Army Headquarters on a monthly basis.

The downsizing of U.S. military personnel and resources over the past few years, coupled with conflicts and military operations cropping up all over the world, has forced the active Army and its reserve components to do more with less. With more and more reserve component units deploying every year, good communication links throughout the Army are a must. The Senior Army Advisor works to maintain and improve those links.

"As the Army has become smaller, the role of the National Guard has become more important. Because of the U.S. military commitment, we're seeing more and more reserve component units participating in these worldwide missions," Guillory said. "As their roles increase, there's going to be a greater need for close contact among the components."

And that close contact, Guillory hopes, will allow Ohio Army National Guardmembers to train better and be better prepared to do their jobs if ever deployed.

"The members of the Ohio Army National Guard are intelligent people who care a great deal for their state mission and their federal mission. They are patriotic people who want to do good work," Guillory said. "It is my job to try and help them achieve that." ■

"(Guardmembers) are patriotic people who want to do good work.... It is my job to try and help them achieve that."

—Col. Kenneth Guillory
Senior Army Advisor
Ohio National Guard

Command Profile



Col. Ken Guillory Senior Army Advisor

Age: 50

Occupation: Senior Regular Army Advisor for the Ohio National Guard.

I grew up in: Baton Rouge, La.

When I was little I wanted to be: a basketball player, baseball player, priest and/or history teacher.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: smart.

My favorite time of the year is: fall.

The one thing I treasure most is: my wife—best friend, confidant, advisor.

My favorite junk food is: fried chicken.

My biggest pet peeve is: trying to use technology to solve problems that require only good, hard work and common sense.

My favorite recreational activities are: racquetball and traveling with my wife.

The older I get, the more I: see the absolute necessity for parents' close involvement with every aspect of their children's lives; value my education and want to improve it; appreciate the need for civility in our lives.

When I retire, I want to: teach and travel.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:

Hold your heads high and keep at it. You are all heroes for your willingness to serve your nation and this state, balancing duty with your private life and displaying attributes such as integrity, commitment, outstanding ability, compassion, energy and selflessness.

Citizen Spotlight

Joining military is family affair in Gault household

Story and photo by Tech Sgt. Lori King
180th Fighter Wing

Airman First Class Pam Gault nearly gave up her dream of joining the military years ago when she was a young mother with two baby girls to coddle.

"I always wanted to join, but I didn't have the opportunity because I was raising two small children. I didn't want to leave them," she said.

But that was then. Now Pam is sharing that dream with her eldest daughter, Airman First Class Michele Gault. Both are members of the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo.

Talk about a strong maternal bond. When Michele turned 17 last year, her mother worried about her future. Pam said she wanted her daughter to go to college but she didn't know how it would be financed, so she allowed a recruiter to come to the house.

"And he talked us both into it," Pam laughed. "I thought I was too old, but I just made it. I had to be sworn in before I turned 35. I made it within 13 days."

Pam recalled that her husband didn't know what to make of it, and that he didn't think she'd go through with it.

Pam's husband was surprised when she and her daughter packed their bags in January and left for basic training and tech school at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

During basic training, they ran together, gobbled down chow together, suffered homesickness together and slept three bunks apart. Then off they went to supply management school, where they shared a barracks room. Of course they studied together. Michele earned the top spot in her graduating class, and Pam was close behind at No. 3.

Though they're both happy with their decision to join the Guard, Pam admits the very beginning of the adventure was pretty tough.

"It really didn't hit me until I made that first phone call home," she said.

"At first I felt kind of numb. Then I

thought I was crazy in the head. I thought, 'What have I done? How can I get out of this?' But I adjusted because I had a lot of support from my family. The hardest part was being separated from my husband and other daughter.

"It really helped that Michele was there," she added. "I was glad I was there to experience what

"Everybody else was my age, and here's my mom, going through obstacle courses and running up ahead of me."

A1C Michele Gault

she was going to experience. I always felt like I knew she was safe because I could see her all the time."

Michele, a self-proclaimed "momma's girl," admits she wouldn't have gone without her mother, though she affectionately described the shared experience as a little weird.

"Everybody else was my age, and here's my mom, going through obstacle courses and running up ahead of me. She always finished ahead of me."

But in the end the women finished together, with proud family members and friends welcoming them back after four months of military training.

The idea to join the 180th was planted initially by Pam's brother, Staff Sgt. Cliff Warstler, a support equipment mechanic with the Toledo unit. Pam said he had been talking to Michele about military benefits for many years.

"Well, I needed money for school. I talked to my mom and she talked to me. I never saw myself as dressing like this (in BDUs)," Michele said.



After attending basic training and technical school together, Airmen 1st Class Pam and Michele Gault spend drill weekends at the 180th Fighter Wing supply room.

"I'm the biggest wuss in the world. I never thought I'd make it. But I thought, 'All right. Get the recruiter here and I'll talk to him.' It sounded interesting. I only had to give up four months of my life to get most of my schooling paid for. Not bad."

Life is pretty much back to normal now. Pam returned to her job as a bookkeeper for the *Bellevue Gazette*, and Michele began attending college at Terra Tech in Fremont. And since they live together, they drive to drills together as well.

Maybe, in a few years, Michele's 16-year-old sister, Melissa, will decide to leave the nest for basic training too. But for Melissa, mom says letters from home will have to do. ■

Citizen Spotlight is a feature aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org, or mail to:

AGOH-PA
ATTN: *Citizen Spotlight*
2825 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

End of an Era



see alexander

A conversation with the general

Q *What did the Ohio National Guard look like when you first joined the Guard?*

A People knew each other very well—they were very close. They had a full-time work force that worked extremely hard because it was significantly undermanned. I remember getting in vehicles and driving them without heat. We had a number of facilities that could have used a substantial amount of maintenance, but there was a lot of personal energy put in the Guard to overcome that.

I felt that there was a level of willingness to perform as a guardsman; that I was responsible for a lot of the morale and spirit that was in the organization. They had fun doing their work, but there was quite a distance between the Guard and the active component. It in no way was equipped to the degree that it is currently. Also, today's NCO corps is more professionally and tactically sound, based upon the level of resourcing and support that has gone into those individuals. But resourcing today is head and shoulders above what it was 30 years ago.

Q *What were some of the hurdles you faced as you moved through the ranks and gained increasing responsibility?*

A I did have some challenges in terms of getting a commission as a result of graduating and then holding a certificate of eligibility for slightly more than three years. Since I was in the air defense program from 1960 to 1971, I had to wait for the opportunity to take a commission, but that is as true today as it was then. There are a number of fine people in the Guard that are in the technician program, that are unable to take a commission because of job opportunities.

But hurdles became significant after I left that assignment in the Cleveland air defense and moved down to Columbus. I had to become reoriented in terms of the Guard's tradition of culture of the M-day soldier. I was able to overcome some challenges due to the support offered by several Guard officers.

Q *Who had the most influence on you during your career?*

A Raymond J. Columbo, who was the commander of the air defense unit, impressed me by how he managed a very intense tactical environment. Responsible for a nuclear facility with M-day and technician personnel in a highly sensitive and critical environment, he caused me to believe that the people we have in the Guard can measure up to any-

body—no matter how sophisticated or how intense the environment or how high the ops tempo. He was a true role model of a first-line leader and affected me quite a bit in a positive way. Also Jim Henby, who depended upon me quite a bit, recognized my potential and encouraged me to go to the OCS program. And I cannot say enough about the mentoring and support I had during OCS from General Clem; he was a true leader of the Guard and to him I owe a lot to my own personal development. Following that, General Galloway, who made me his chief of staff and ultimately postured me to be competitive for the position of adjutant general. Those individuals and several others were key in my ability to move ahead.

Q *You became adjutant general during some of the toughest times for the Ohio Guard. Tell us about some of those issues.*

A Well, if we go back to 1987, that's when it all began in terms of my perspective as an adjutant general. There was something called a Perpich Amendment that was a lawsuit filed by the state of Minnesota that opposed the utilization of guardsmen in Title 32 status to train in South America and Honduras. It had implications for global deployments as we know them today. As a re-

RICHARD CHARLES ALEXANDER

1935 - Born to Floyd and Bertha Alexander on June 26 in Cleveland.



1954 - Enlisted in the Marine Corps, honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1958.



1955 - Married LaVera Allen at her parents' home on Dec. 23.

1965 - Commissioned a second lieutenant after graduating Officer Candidate School on May 6.

1947 - Attended 6th Grade at Miles Standish School.



1969 - Promoted to captain on Aug. 12.



1960 - Enlisted in the Ohio National Guard with Battery C, 1st Missile Battalion, 137th Artillery.

Buckeye Guard

RICHARD C. ALEXANDER

The Adjutant General
End of an Era

sult of Ohio being a friend of the court, there were some relationships that developed between Ohio and the Pentagon that had to be overcome. It had a lot to do with the relevancy of our structure, because at that time the role of the Guard's presence abroad was intensifying.

In addition, there was a tuition grant deficit, which could not have come at a worse time in terms of recruiting challenges that we had. And that required a personal touch that had to be exercised with the families and members who were experiencing a radical change in the amount of funding they had for the tuition assistance program.

Immediately following that, there was a terrible tragedy on Lake Erie with the death of two of our guardsmen that were on a watercraft that wasn't suitable for the task at hand. I will never forget how we were prejudged by certain editorial reporters. But the way that was handled, our credibility prevailed.

Q What helped you get the Ohio Guard in the position that it's in today?

A The stature that the Ohio Guard holds today is due to the character and the competence of the people we now have in leadership positions. The pipeline is continually being enriched by the promotion of fine officers and NCOs to positions of responsibility. In fact those events that I just mentioned were only a few of many diffi-



Inspired by former adjutant general Maj. Gen. James Clem, who died in 1987.

cult times that existed as a result of a lack of credibility in some of the people who we were depending upon and some professional expertise that was needed. As we evolved to the quality management team that we have today, we have been able to overcome a whole host of management and leadership practices that have moved us from the posture we were in nine years ago to where we are today.

Q How do you think the National Guard will look in 10 years?

A Guardmembers will be more educated, they will be more adroit at managing information systems and they will be capable of handling highly technical weapons systems. The civilian acquired skills guardmembers will have in the year 2010 will be extremely applicable to the profession of arms that will be exercised then. As a result, the total Army and the total Department of Defense is going to be moving in that direction also. You are going to find combat units of significant size, as well as individuals in small teams and groups of people integrated into the total force.

Q During your tenure as adjutant general you emphasized returning the Guard to



1987 - Appointed adjutant general of Ohio by Gov. Richard F. Celeste on Dec. 1. Notably, Alexander was the first African American and Ohio OCS graduate to be appointed to this position.

Family Support



The Alexanders attend OCS Dining Out.

LaVera 'walks the talk'

In the military, service members are continually challenged to "walk the talk"—following through on a task in the prescribed manner. When it comes to family support, Mrs. LaVera Alexander does just that. So says Warrant Officer Carmen Covertry, family programs coordinator for the Ohio National Guard.

According to Covertry, the Guard's "first lady" has been an ardent supporter of the Family Readiness program through participation in national workshops and involvement with Ohio's Volunteer Council. "She never hesitates to speak with family and military members given the opportunity," Covertry said. "She has become a true mentor for many of the council members because of her unending show of support for her spouse and the National Guard."

After raising three children and retiring as a city employee, LaVera volunteers as a home health aid and travels frequently with the general. Submitted by the State Public Affairs Office.

1988 - Initiated an inquiry into the deaths of two guardsmen who drowned at Camp Perry.

1988 - Promoted to brigadier general on June 16.

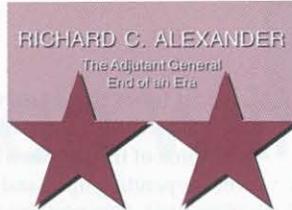
1985 - Assigned chief of staff, Ohio Army National Guard.



1987 - Challenged with tackling tuition grant deficit, which resulted in the program offering 60% rather than 100% tuition assistance.

1989 - Tempered political opposition to Ohio Guard troops training in Honduras.





its roots as a community-based defense force. Why was that so important?

A A community-based defense force is the tradition of this country. We need to have the community and the citizens support military objectives. In order for that to happen, with the least amount of resistance, citizens themselves need to be a part of it. In other words, those who would judge would be those who are participating, when it comes to Guard involvement. When you have that, a significant amount of credibility is brought to the role the military plays in our national defense. We cannot have a military force that consists of soldiers and airmen and marines and sailors that are distant from the community because service members must always be aware of why we're in uniform. It is to protect those communities from which we come, as opposed to a naked ideology of our political system.

Q What would you characterize as your most significant accomplishment?

A There are some individual accomplishments and then there are some organizational/institutional accomplishments. Indelibly etched in my mind is the moment when the secretary of defense and my wife walked into a Reserve Forces Policy Board meeting to surprise me with the Defense Superior Performance Medal for some

work done in redesigning the Army's force structure and divisions. I took a lot of personal pride in knowing that the secretary of defense would be so moved to honor me at that setting.

But in terms of the organization, the accomplishments that I see of others is probably the most fulfilling thing to me. I can look at people that I depend on to lead and manage the Guard and take a feeling of satisfaction that "yes, they're the right ones." As a result of that, I can keep responsibility and give away authority—that's really provided me with a sense of accomplishment.

Q What advice would you give to a young person enlisting in the Guard today?

A Forget about your limitations. The motto "You Can" is the Guard's motto. By stretching your ability and your energy, you physically adapt to a person who can make even greater strides. I think we're all better people when we place ourselves in conditions that require us to stretch our ability beyond what we personally feel we can attain. That is growth and that is good for the individual. It's also good for the Guard.

Q What advice would you leave with the next adjutant general?

A The character of the Guard will be reflected in the people that are appointed to perform in positions of responsibility. Make sure that the right individuals are put in responsibility. When that happens, give away authority, maintain responsibility and then seek opportunities to provide support.

Q As president of the National Guard Association of the United States you have the opportunity to meet with several high ranking Army officers and defense officials. What were their impressions of the National Guard?

A They are not keenly aware of the Guard's ability to participate in the military strategy. That is why we are discovered consistently. As we deploy around the world and meet real-world expectations, we will have influenced the active component's impression of the Guard, its members and its capability. That is why it's so important that the policies toward integrating the total Army continue—that we step up to the ops tempo problem and meet the personal standards that are there for the total Army and the total Air Force. We must become involved consistently. Otherwise, we will be perceived without the advantage of a real-world, first-hand assessment of what we are capable of doing. If you don't know, you can't judge, and many don't know. So we have to stand, gauge and make



1990 - Guided deployment of Ohio National Guard troops in November to support the Persian Gulf War. More than 1,600 Air and Army guardmembers were activated, with the last unit returning to Ohio in September 1991.



1991 - Reappointed adjutant general of Ohio by Gov. George V. Voinovich on Jan. 14.

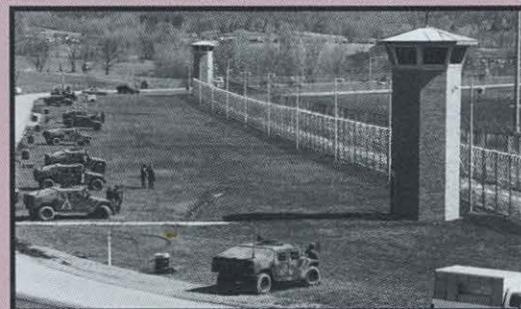
1993 - Selected to serve on DoD's Reserve Forces Policy Board, which reviews reserve component policy and readiness matters, and advises the secretary of defense.

1990 - Directed flood recovery operations in June by deploying more than 700 guardmembers. Relief efforts were focused in the small town of Shadyside, where 339 homes were destroyed and 26 residents died.



1992 - Promoted to major general on Oct. 6.

1993 - Mobilized more than 800 members of the Guard in response to the Lucasville prison riot which lasted 11 days.



Buckeye Guard

a change in the mind set as a result of a physical presence where we demonstrate professionalism.



Q What legacy would you like to leave the Ohio Guard after having served as adjutant general for the last 11 years?

A The legacy is here and it's here now: the Guard, if resourced, can perform at home and abroad. The Guard, if managed and supported and led properly, can and will meet the standards of the total force. That legacy exists and it's extremely evident here in Ohio. I think that it will remain for some time to come because it is the manifestation of the existing contributions that are made by our soldiers and airmen. I think when you contrast that to 30 years ago, that's the legacy. I think it will prevail.

Q How important has the support of your family been throughout your career and, in particular, during your time as adjutant general?

A It's the bedrock—without that we can't perform. There is a family tap root that has to be nourished continually for us to grow and perform as soldiers and airmen. We have to have that. We have to have someone other than an organization to care for. If you

don't have that, you cannot put in perspective the value of what we do in uniform. There are no cogent reasons for being something without having a reason to be that kind of individual. I think there has to be a context under which we perform, whether it's family, loved ones, a Supreme Being—whatever form one might have. That context for me personally has been family. I place a high value on the family and its support base for those of us in uniform.

Q Is there anything else you would like to add?

A Just remember that no one individual is responsible for any one organization. It's the men in the squad carrying out the mission, it's the crew on the ground supporting our aviators—it is really a melding of all of those participants that make the Guard successful. That's one of the reasons why I've been privileged to go beyond the boundaries of this office and look outward as opposed to inward to do what I can to improve the Guard. I'm fortunate to get a lot of credit for a lot of things but in the real sense of the word the Guard is what it is today because of everyone that's in it. Each individual makes a contribution. I think we can be proud of the fact that we have created an environment that allows that kind of participation and that's why the Ohio Guard is a good one. ★★

Gracious Good-bye



MG Smith and BG Sullivan present gift.

OHANG pays tribute

More than 70 Air Guard members from across the state spent the evening of Oct. 14 paying tribute to the retiring Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander. Consisting of cocktails, dinner and camaraderie, the informal get-together took place at the Medallion Country Club in Westerville.

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, assistant adjutant general for Air, cited Alexander's great work as leader of the Ohio National Guard and as an innovative manager and motivator for all the people working for him. Brig. Gen. Paul Sullivan, chief of staff, reiterated Smith's sentiments by saying, "a great leader is moving from our midst."

Gift-bearing also took place as the wives of Sullivan and Smith presented Mrs. LaVera Alexander with a souvenir from Hungary, while the general was presented with an official aviator's jacket and nametape.

Alexander closed the evening by honoring the members of the Ohio Guard. "When you have the respect that I have for you," he said, "it is a tremendous motivation to do your best. You have made me work hard because of what you stand for." Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.



Attributes much of his success to the "bedrock" of support he receives from his family.



1996 - Appointed president of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) in September.

1998 - Nominated in August to fill executive director position at NGAUS.



1998 - Retires from Ohio National Guard Dec. 31.

1994 - Activated nearly 150 guardmembers to 13 counties declared in snow emergency in mid-January.



Winter 1998/99

1995 - Chaired force structure committee for Adjutant General's Association of the United States which developed the combat division redesign proposal. As a result, Alexander was also selected to serve on the U.S. Army General Officer Steering Committee, which formulated the Combat Division Realignment.

Communicating through

Music

Toledo's 555th Air Force Band takes show on road to Hungary

Story by 1st Lt. Denise D. Varner
Photos by Senior Airman Scott Gossard
180th Fighter Wing

Thanks to the universal language of music, a group of military personnel were greeted by smiling, clapping and dancing nationals of a country that would have banned them just seven years ago.

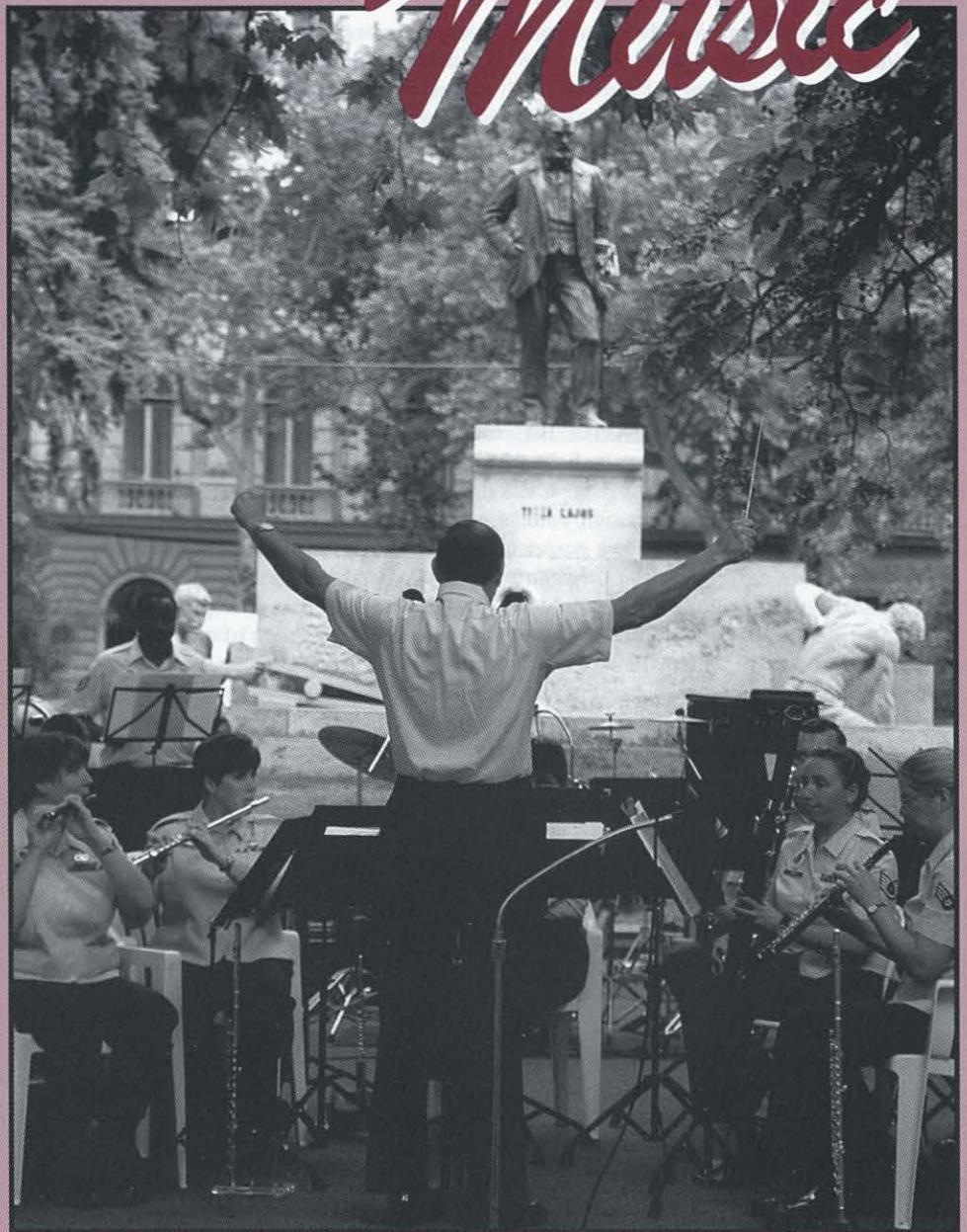
The 555th Air Force Band, Toledo, known as the "Triple Nickel," deployed with the *Buckeye Express* tour to the former Soviet-bloc country of Hungary, Aug. 15-29. Comprised of 38 performers, four support personnel and a Hungarian army translator, the group gave eight performances in six different cities while in Hungary.

"We have taken our mission international," said Maj. Bob Krichbaum, 555th commander and band director. The mission, he said, was to carry out community relations activities with the Hungarian public and exchange ideas with the Hungarian army band.

The performance-packed schedule included a reception hosted by the U.S. ambassador to Hungary in Budapest, three of the five Hungarian air bases, a NATO air show in Kecskemet, the local communities of Szolnok and Veszprem, and Szeged, Hungarian Sister City of Toledo.

The Triple Nickel began its tour at the ambassador's residence, playing at a formal dinner attended by dignitaries from throughout Europe, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Also present were Ohio's Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, state adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, assistant adjutant general for Air.

The Triple Nickel performed several of its concerts during Hungary's four-day St. Stephen's Day celebration, which marked Hungary's constitution celebration. The band played to a crowd of thousands in Veszprem's town center. The concert and jazz bands performed a mix of traditional and lively modern pieces. About one hour into the concert the crowd began clapping and dancing to the music,



Maj. Bob Krichbaum, commander of the 555th Air Force Band, conducts with enthusiasm during the Triple Nickel's concert performance in Szged, Hungary.

and joined band members in dancing to "YMCA" and a "New York, New York" kick line.

"When I was playing my solo and saw these thousands of people cheering and dancing, it was such a rush," exclaimed saxophone soloist Airman 1st Class Scott Parsons. "I built off the energy of the crowd and the other band members."

The concert ended with non-stop applause and an encore, which kicked off holiday fireworks.

Additional highlights were joint performances with the Hungarian air force general staff's band

and the Szolnok 89th Mixed Airlift Wing Band. The 555th and the general staff's band played together at the country's largest air show in what turned out to be a three-hour jam session.

"We put the music on the stand and we all could play it," said trumpet player Senior Airman Carie Hoodlebrink. Despite the language barrier she said "the bands were able to communicate through music."

The band was successful due to their diligence and flexibility. Many days required more than 18



TOP: SrA. Shawn Chalfin (second from left) and SSgt. Todd Miller, Triple Nickel trumpeters, perform with members of the Hungarian military band. **LEFT:** Local children dance to the music in the city of Szged. **ABOVE:** SSgt. Mike Andrew signs autographs for fans between sets.

hours of work in 90-degree temperatures. A typical performance included a three-hour drive, two hours of equipment and sound-system hauling and set-up, a practice session, lunch, 30 minutes to change clothes, then a two- to four-hour performance. Once the concert was over, they loaded up the equipment, changed clothes and were back on the bus headed for the next gig.

Last-minute changes were the order of the day,

but complaints were few. The band's translator, Hungarian air traffic controller György "George" Füves, was instrumental in communicating and coordinating the needs of the Triple Nickel to correspond with the requirements of the Hungarian communities, Krichbaum said.

Between performances, band members did find time to wander through Hungary's historic streets and villages.

A trip to Egar provided members a taste of the country's wine culture, while others enjoyed Hungary's internationally acclaimed natural springs, complete with massages and mud baths. A bus trip through Budapest revealed generations of Hungarian pride as block after city block displayed buildings sculpted in ornate detail and adorned with elaborate statues. Many buildings also granted a sobering lesson of Hungary's war-filled past, scarred with holes left by artillery fire and bombings.

Master Sgt. Bob Rolfes, 555th bass clarinetist, said this deployment was different than any other performances in his 29 years with the band, particularly because they were able to experience the environment and culture of the civilian locations they stayed in throughout the country.

"We've deployed to Germany and other places, but we stayed at U.S. Air Force bases," he said. "This has been a lot harder for us (to coordinate), but we're getting the job done. This is the most memorable and rewarding experience I've had with the band."

Added Krichbaum: "I couldn't be more elated about the success of the tour. The band members worked hard and long hours and I'm proud of them.

"All the hard work, effort and planning were well worth the results for the Air National Guard, Ohio and the band." ■

Learning beyond the classroom

Buckeye Express tour accomplishes more than expected

By Senior Airman Paul Lazorchak
180th Fighter Wing

It may not be unusual to find a Hungarian in Ohio, but it is something special to find Ohioans in Hungary—especially Ohioans at their best.

Ninety-nine of Ohio's best spent Aug. 15-29 in Hungary as participants in Operation *Buckeye Express*, a goodwill mission of the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

Though the highlight of the trip was Toledo's 555th Air Force Band concert tour, many other civilian and Guard personnel shared job knowledge, experience and ideas with their Hungarian military counterparts. The goal was to help the former Soviet-bloc nation prepare for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to strengthen the partnership of the two countries.

The Ohio-Hungary State Partnership Program is part of the larger Department of Defense Military to Military Contact Program that pairs states with the fledgling democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and with former Soviet-bloc nations. Ohio was paired with Hungary in August of 1993 because of Ohio's large Hungarian population.

"It is a good experience. It helps us to improve our system to better fit NATO," said Maj. Szabo Balazs of the Hungarian air force.

Balazs participated in an abbreviated Non-commissioned Officer's course that was taught by Ohio Air National Guard Professional Military Education instructors Master Sgt. Kathy M. Cyphert and Senior Master Sgt. Roy Swanson.

"Even though we've been taught for so long that they are the bad guys, they're just like us," Cyphert said of the former communist country. "We tried to explain to them the importance of taking care of your people and I think they understood this."

The course covered several topics including leadership, communication, cultural diversity and rank structure.

In addition to the NCO course, teams from personnel, public affairs, civil engineering, medical, the chaplain staff, aircraft maintenance and Army tactics and training shared information with their Hungarian peers at Szolnok. The teams, with the exception of the NCO class and aircraft maintenance, also worked as Traveling

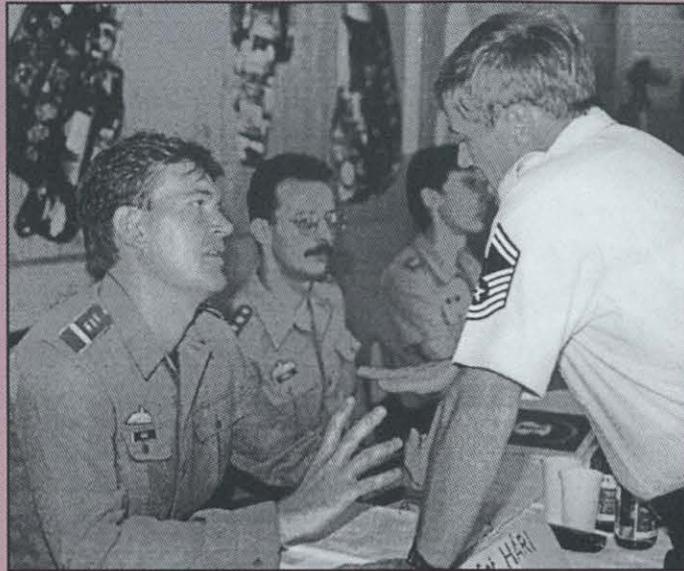


Photo by SMSgt. Joe Stahl, 178th Fighter Wing.

SMSgt. Roy Swanson (right), 180th Fighter Wing, discusses leadership issues with a Hungarian NCO at a training seminar.

Contact Teams (TCTs) that visited three other Hungarian air bases.

The pre-arranged visits lasted from four to six hours and usually consisted of a presentation by the Americans followed by a discussion.

"They asked about training, enlisted and officer ranks and how one advances in rank," said Capt. Jerry Fork, member of the personnel TCT and 179th Airlift Wing.

The presentations were made through a translator and typically covered job responsibilities, training, relevant experiences and how the Guard performs its role in the total force.

"It was hard for them to comprehend how someone could be good at their job and only do it two days a month," Fork said. The Hungarian military does not have a reserve force, he said.

One of the goals of the TCTs was to uncover areas of incompatibility between the Hungarian military and the military of a current NATO member such as the United States, according to Army Guard Lt. Col. Raj Richardson, the Hungarian Program Coordinator for Ohio.

"Their patterns of operation are different from our own. We do the same things but we do them in a different way," Richardson said. "For example, we found out that the forks on their forklifts are a different width than ours and therefore didn't fit our pallets."

"A trip like ours points out issues you just can't otherwise come up with. You just have to be there," he asserted.

One NATO requirement that was recently

met in Hungary was the institution of a chaplaincy program. According to Maj. Jozsef Szaradits, Catholic chaplain at Veszprem Air Base, the program started four years ago and is gaining acceptance.

"The troops now have an opportunity to see how chaplains are accepted in the U.S. I hope to see the same in Hungary," Szaradits said. He explained that the Hungarian military has Catholic, Protestant and Jewish chaplains, and is currently working to expand their denominational coverage.

The TCTs offered both the Hungarian and American chaplains an opportunity for personal and professional growth according to Lt. Col. Vern Bok, Protestant chaplain and member of one of the TCTs.

"It expanded my horizons. We were part of a historical moment that will expand the partnership of the chaplaincy of two militaries," Bok said.

The *Buckeye Express* team, including the 555th Band, lived in a dormitory at Szolnok Air Base. They had a choice of eating meals at the base dining facility or taking a bus into the nearby town of Szolnok. Many members of the team took advantage of tours of the local wine country and downtown Budapest.

The *Express* was comprised of representatives from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus; 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield; 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo; 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield; and Ohio Army National Guard and Ohio Air National Guard headquarters, both located in Columbus.

Col. Dwight McEntire from OHANG headquarters was the senior officer and commander of the deployment. McEntire, Richardson and Lt. Col. Tom McGinley from the 178th FW organized the trip. According to Richardson, McGinley coordinated the logistics from Hungary while Richardson coordinated the stateside details. Richardson said that McEntire overcame many obstacles to make the trip a reality.

"I don't think we did what we thought we were going to do and yet we were able to accomplish our mission way beyond our objectives," Richardson said. "We, and the Hungarians, learned other things beyond the classroom discussions." ■

GLOBAL PATRIOT:

269th's combat mission skills, readiness put to test during ORI

By Capt. Paul R. Harrison
251st Combat Communications Group

A hostile country has invaded a United States ally and has inflicted significant casualties. The United States is tasked with aeromedical evacuation and offensive air strikes. A Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) deploys an Air Transportable Hospital to the Front (Fort Drum) to recover casualties, as well as an F-16 Wing to the Western Front (Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah) for the air operations.

This was the stage set for GLOBAL PATRIOT, a joint training exercise comprised of elements from the Army and Air National Guard, Marine and Navy Reserves, and active Army soldiers. And, like its predecessors (GLOBAL APACHE '97 and GLOBAL YANKEE '95 and '96), GLOBAL PATRIOT planners used a type of "reverse tasking" method of recruiting players for the exercise. Building an exercise script or scenario around its players (not vice-versa) allowed virtually anyone to participate.

"Approximately 100 different units contributed in one form or another to this joint-service exercise that focused on three training sites: Fort Drum, N.Y., and Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, which primarily held the offensive air and ground operations, and Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., which served as command and control for the exercise," explained Col. David R. Robinson of the 152nd Air Control Group, Syracuse, N.Y. Robinson's unit was tasked with management all of the personnel-related issues for GLOBAL PATRIOT '98.

A host of support units, crucial to the success



Courtesy photos.

ABOVE: Satcom/Wideband technicians set up a TSC-94 satellite dish at Volk Field, Wisc. **RIGHT:** TSgt. Dynetta M. Brown makes an entry in the daily log in the STAMPS tent.

of the exercise, were involved, such as special tactics forces, tactical airlift control elements, mobile airfield staging facilities, air traffic controllers, combat communications units, and a control and reporting element.

Included in this mix of support elements was the Ohio National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron. The Springfield unit deployed to Volk Field in west-central Wisconsin for a mission that was two-fold: provide one of 15 communication links servicing GLOBAL PATRIOT and pass an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection dubbed CORONET WHITE. Approximately 110 members of the unit provided satellite communications, message traffic, switchboard and local area network capabilities.

"This has been the best exercise I've been on with the 269th," said Lt. Col. Mark L. Stout, commander of the unit. "We met mission requirements in every area of the inspection as well as receiving great training for our troops."

"I'm learning a lot about customer service," said Senior Airman Greg A. Pitz, vehicle maintenance technician. "The real-world training that this type of exercise provides is priceless."

One interesting highlight which took place during GLOBAL PATRIOT was the introduction of state-of-the-art anti-intrusion computer software from Rome Labs in New York. This software development was initiated after the ill-fated hacking incident of 1994, when a college



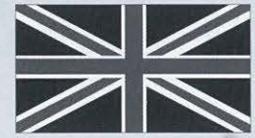
student in England infiltrated the computer system at Rome Labs, disabling more than 1,000 computers which temporarily paralyzed the entire facility.

"GLOBAL PATRIOT is a good platform to introduce this software because the potential users can see firsthand the benefits and, in turn, sell the idea to their commanders," explained Nelson Robinson, development engineer for Rome Labs. This software, which won't be made public until the summer of 1999, can also be used by the private sector.

But experimenting with anti-intrusion software was a luxury not afforded to everyone, especially not by those undergoing an ORI. "We've learned a lot, training on our Stand Alone Message Processing System (STAMPS)," said Tech. Sgt. Dynetta M. Brown, computer operator for the 269th. "Fortunately, our circuits came right up, so that was good." ■



UNITED FORCES



Ohio Guard unit trains with British allies

Story and photos by Pfc. Rich Stage
HQ STARC (-)

About 140 soldiers from A Company, 1-148th Infantry, Xenia, traveled to England for their annual training Aug. 8-22, working with soldiers from the 4th Queen's Lancashire Regiment (4QLR) of the English Territorial Army (TA), the British equivalent of the U.S. National Guard.

After touching down in Brize Norton airfield near Oxfordshire, England after the trans-Atlantic flight, the pace never seemed to slow down for the soldiers of Alpha Company.

The unit arrived late Saturday night only to wake Sunday morning to begin training on the British Army's service rifle, the SA-80.

Opinions were mixed among the U.S. soldiers concerning the SA-80. "The scope was amazing, and it was excellent for urban assault," unit member Staff Sgt. John Pflaumer said. Although shorter than the M16-A2 (75 centimeters for the SA-80 compared to 100.66cm for the M16-A2), it was heavier (4.98 kilograms to 3.99kg).

"The weight distribution was awkward," Pfc. Jason Taylor said, and Sgt. Jim Benton agreed. "It's not balanced, and it's really difficult to handle," he said.



Company A, 1-148th Infantry soldiers get acquainted with the British SA-80 assault rifles, and later had the opportunity to qualify with the weapons on the range.

After training and qualifying on the SA-80, the unit went to the field. The first exercise of the annual training was an Iron Soldier competition, consisting of 10 events testing military skills and pushing all involved to their limits. Some of the more notable events were a 100-foot rope traverse, a 120-foot rappel down a cliff, a 40-foot water drop near a Napoleonic fortress and an arduous 15-kilometer march through the inhospitable terrain near Okehampton. "Walking through the peat bogs, with such poor visibility just kicked all of our butts," Pflaumer said.

Other events included a combat assault, command tasks, as well as infiltration and first aid stations.

"It was challenging, but fun. It was great to get an opportunity to do new things," Pfc. John Hamilton said.

After three rough days in the field, the soldiers returned to base and, after cleaning weapons and equipment, got some much needed free time on the weekend. Many of the soldiers went out to survey the local countryside and culture, as well as the local night life.

Two short days later, it was back out to the field. The unit's field training exercise took place in the Salisbury Plains, and started off with an 8-kilometer foot march. Two forces of combined U.S. and British soldiers were pitted against each other in a three-day battle.

For many Alpha Company soldiers, the highlight of the trip might have been visiting London for the last two days before returning home. Soldiers descended upon the town, and wandered throughout, visiting all of the sights. Many saw the handing over of the keys at the Tower of London, and many more saw the Changing of the Guard from inside the Forecourt. History came alive with the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge and Big Ben.

This unique annual training was made possible through the Army National Guard Small Unit Exchange (SUE) Program. It involves the reciprocal exchange of company-size or smaller ARNG elements with designated units from foreign nations. Units are exchanged with similar units of the foreign nation.

"It was a once in a lifetime chance," Sgt. Sam Sweeny said. "The training was fun, and the exchange of knowledge was incredible."

National Guard Bureau attempts to schedule the exchange of elements within the same battalion in each country to maximize the learning aspects of the exchange.

"It was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us," said 1st Lt. David Baird, Alpha Company commander. "Everything fell into place, because the officers and NCOs made the plan work." ■



LEFT: SPC Dennis Rogers of Alpha Company, 1-148th Infantry, comes out of the brush during small unit patrolling. BELOW: British soldiers await instruction during infantry assault training practice.





LEFT: Lance Corporal Ian Hensby of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment dismounts from an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier during a live-fire exercise in August at Camp Ripley, Minn. **ABOVE:** CPL Mark McElroy, HQ Company, 1-148th Infantry (left), puts on a British Army rucksack, called a Bergen, as Queen's Lancashire Regiment Colour Sergeant Tony Barnes prepares to hand him additional gear.



FORCES: British invade Ripley

Story and photos by Spc. Clinton Wood
Camp Ripley Public Affairs Office

It was a case of a new place and new faces for members of the Ohio Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry during their annual training Aug. 8-22.

For the first time in several years, the unit trained at Camp Ripley, located near Little Falls, Minn. The unit also brought 148 British Territorial Army (Guard) soldiers from A Company, 4th Battalion, Queen's Lancashire Regiment and other support elements. Included in this group were eight members of the Royal Marines Commando Reserves, 10 Canadian soldiers and a Hungarian officer.

This also was part of a small unit exchange program in cooperation with the Department of Army and the Department of Defense. The 148th deployed 141 members of its unit in support capacities to the United Kingdom.

Col. Tod J. Carmony, 37th Armor Brigade commander, said that both his guardmembers and the British soldiers learned excellent techniques from each other.

"This is what the kids sign up for," he added just minutes after he had completed observing the Marine commandos very efficiently execute a live-fire exercise on one of the camp's ranges.

He commented that exchanges like this really boost the troops' morale and it teaches other nations' military forces to train as "a group of nations."

"We all know how to fight," he added.

The training also included infantry tactical exercises, anti-tank lanes training and a 40-kilometer reconnaissance patrol.

Three Guard soldiers, 1st Lt. Chris Hammye, Cpl. Mark McElroy and Spc. Jimmy Gray also participated in the patrol.

After the first night and a 10-mile trek on the camp's roads, McElroy, who had participated in a similar patrol at Fort Campbell while a member of the 101st Airborne, described the patrol as "great."

"A lot of humping," he added. "They don't complain about nothing. They're tough. These guys are awesome."

Regiment Pvt. Martin Howard said the patrol was "hot, hot, hot."

When asked what he thought of the mosquitoes, he replied, "They were like birds."

Maj. Carl Stophlet, executive officer of the battalion, noted that this exchange between countries came about after Desert Storm was evaluated.

"This is a unique exercise that 10 years ago never would have happened," he added.

He also commented that the British soldiers were "very, very confident," and the mission

was "extremely successful."

Staff Sgt. Denis Brewer, an evaluator, said the British soldiers were very eager to learn about the Guard's equipment and did so very quickly.

"It was like children on the first day of school," he said.

Pvt. Stephen Simcock of the regiment said being able to train in the M113 armored personnel carriers was "different."

"I kind of enjoy it," he added. "That's what we're prepared to do though."

He said that he could not compare the Guard's tracked vehicles to the British Army's because he has never trained with one.

"Only time I see tracked vehicles is on pictures, even our own," he said.

As the regiment's media operations officer, Capt. Phil McVan said, "We dream of

doing this kind of stuff." So will this regiment be able to live their "dream" for years to come? McVan noted it will depend on the benefits the regiment gained.

For the 1-148th Infantry Battalion, it will send its members back for both the Expert Infantry Badge and Expert Medical Badge tests next year.

"This training is too good not to come back," Carmony said. ■

"This is a unique exercise that 10 years ago never would have happened."

—MAJ Carl Stophlet
executive officer
1-148th Infantry Battalion

Looking back 100 years

Spanish-American War put Guard on map

By Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, State PAO
and Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, NGB

As the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War has been celebrated quietly this year, many may recall the famed historical accounts of Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders courageously charging up Kettle Hill and wrestling it away from the Spanish Army and driving on to San Juan Hill.

What may not be realized is the war's significance in many ways to the evolution of the U.S. military as a worldwide fighting force, and that it is widely considered that the war put the National Guard on the map as a legitimate military entity and complement to the active Army.

Barely three decades after the Civil War, the Regular Army numbered just 28,000 soldiers, patrolling in the West and pulling garrison duty on 80 posts. The National Guard had the soldiers—114,000 of them. They were not highly trained, nor did they have the best of equipment. But they were eagerly available, even if the Constitution prohibited them from fighting outside of the country.

President McKinley, former Ohio governor and Ohio National Guard member, called for 200,000 volunteers to release Cuba from the grasp of its Spanish masters. McKinley allowed Guard units to volunteer en masse, and they made up the bulk of U.S. forces who fought in the Spanish-American War in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

They promptly answered McKinley's calls in April of 1898. Many of the units retained their state identities by reporting at full strength. There were 274,717 men in uniform by August.

For the purposes of the war, units such as the 8th Ohio Infantry became the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. More than 15,000 Ohioans responded to the president's call, with 1,200 men of the 8th OVI, commanded by Col. Curtis V. Hard, deploying to Cuba with Maj. Gen. William Shafter's VII Corps.

While Roosevelt's Rough Riders were to gain fame for their wartime exploits, the 8th OVI did not get the opportunity—the unit deployed to Cuba but never saw combat action.

The largest threat to the 8th, like nearly all units involved, was disease. Typhoid, malaria and yellow fever brought down 10 times as many American soldiers as did enemy bullets in the war. Food was rotten or poorly cooked and the wool uniforms were too hot for the tropics.

Having sailed from New York City to Cuba, the regiment landed in the city of Siboney. The men were appalled when they realized it was a horrible slum. Signs of war were everywhere—dead horses and mules, equipment strewn all over the roads and wounded soldiers returning from the front. The 8th was ordered to camp on the east bank of the Aguadores River, while the remainder of the division would move to Santiago Bay and drive the Spanish troops from there.

Shafter's remaining troops embarked for southern Cuba and began beating back the Spainards around Santiago. Subsequent land and naval victories led to the surrender of 22,500 Spanish troops in Cuba in late July. The Army battled Spanish forces in Puerto Rico for the next month until Spain signed a protocol ending the war on Aug. 12. Spain granted independence to Cuba and ceded Puerto Rico to the United States. The United States paid



Dick

Spain \$20 million for the Philippine Islands and retained Guam when the treaty was signed Dec. 10.

Before receiving orders to march out of Siboney, yellow fever infesting the island of Cuba had caught up with hundreds of soldiers of the 8th OVI. By the time the 8th left Cuba, they had left 70 men buried

there. At least 200 of the 8th's soldiers would make the trip back to the United States with some sort of illness, but regimental surgeons were convinced that what soldiers were suffering from was not yellow fever, but possibly typhoid. After waiting days for medical clearance by doctors in New York, the 8th returned to heroes' welcomes in Wooster, Ohio, complete with a parade and a series of parties. On Nov. 21, the 8th was mustered out of service and the soldiers quietly returned to their homes throughout the state.

While the 8th's wartime legacy could be considered less than spectacular, overall, the war was excellent testimony of the ability of the National Guard to mobilize when called to service; the willingness of citizen-soldiers to accept their duties and serve their country when called. Legislation recognizing the importance of the National Guard followed a few years after the war's end.

The Dick Act of 1903 made the National Guard subject to federal training and mobilization guidelines and eligible for federal funds. It replaced the Uniform Militia Act of 1792 that made states responsible for maintaining their militias and made the federal government responsible for the Guard.

U.S. Rep. Charles Dick, a former member of the 8th Ohio who had served as the unit's executive officer during the war, was a major general in the Ohio Guard when he authored the act in Congress that made the National Guard the nation's primary reserve component and federal force. Dick is often referred to as the father of the National Guard.

"The Regular Army cannot furnish enough troops for even the first line of defense," Dick, who later served as a U.S. senator, wrote in 1910. "The real defense of our country will, in the future as in the past, rest on the citizen soldiery." ■



National Guard Heritage Painting by Mort Kunstler.

With the declaration of war with Spain in April 1898, more than 160,000 National Guard members from throughout the country volunteered to enter federal service. It was during battles such as the victorious charge up Kettle Hill (above) in July 1898 that guard members proved their mettle, as well as their value to America's military.

Touched by an ANGEL

Guardmembers help
hearing impaired,
medically underserved
in Guatemala

By Senior Airman Elizabeth Dubina
179th Airlift Wing

Two members of Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing were said to have brought a slice of heaven to earth during their humanitarian medical mission in Guatemala last summer.

Capt. Kathy Tyree, readiness officer, and Senior Airman Nicole Buntin, a public health technician, departed for their annual training mission at a Guatemalan Army installation on July 24. After a commercial flight to Pensacola, Fla., and a C-141 ride to Guatemala City, Tyree and Buntin endured a seven-hour trip up a dusty, winding road in an overcrowded, seemingly antique bus, before arriving at the military base in the town of Quetzaltenago.

Their mission was to provide medical relief to some of the poorest communities in Guatemala. They visited four villages and stayed at each for two days. They were not concerned with the 15-hour days nor did they care about their living conditions, all they cared about was that their help was needed.

"We were doing everything," Buntin said. "Everything from administering parasite immunizations and pulling teeth, to teaching public health classes on how to wash hands." She said that one family walked four and a half hours just to get medical attention.

"On average, 800 people would wait in line each day for medical treatment. In the last village, on our last day, 2,400 people stood in line in hopes of seeing a doctor," Buntin said. "Unfortunately, we ran out of medicine and could not treat everyone. We had to move the children to the front of the line to treat them first."

Tyree, who is a civilian audiologist, spent her time helping the hearing impaired. She adminis-



Courtesy photo.

tered hearing tests, and passed out hearing aids and ear molds to people who had never heard before. "One woman told us we were angels sent to Guatemala by God to help her child hear again," Tyree recalled.

Various civilian companies and military organizations provided \$35,000 in medicine and medical supplies. E.B. Brown Optical and Hearing Center, whose corporate office is based in Cleveland, donated ear molds and batteries, while Starkey Hearing Aids, based in Minneapolis, donated hearing aids in support of the mission.

"Starkey's motto is 'So the world may hear,'" Tyree said. "And that's just what they do."

According to Tyree, this relief mission had profound effects not only for herself and the villagers, but also for their Guatemalan army translator, Lt. Oscar Asensio.

"He didn't like American people—he thought we were greedy," Tyree explained. "After he met us, he fell in love with Americans. He said it was because he saw how much we cared when we helped the people, and how we cared when we couldn't help. You want to help everyone so badly, but you only have the daylight hours to work," she said.

Tyree described treating two brothers who had not heard a sound their entire lives. She had to teach their teacher how to show them to speak by feeling voice vibrations of basic sounds like "ba" and "ma."

"I taught them how to say 'Mama,' and then I took them to their mother so she could hear them speak their first words. It was an ex-

Capt. Kathy Tyree fits a young Guatemalan girl with a hearing aid.

tremely emotional moment for everyone, it was like God smiled in the room."

It was the discovery of a hearing impaired school named *Escuela Por Su Ninos Sordos* that made Tyree and Buntin realize their job wouldn't be finished before their deployment ended. The

guardmembers were only able to treat a few of the school's 60 students before they returned to the states on Aug. 8.

As a result, both of the care givers willingly returned to Guatemala for three days in September. According to Tyree, the first day was spent educating the local population about hearing loss, hearing conservation and hearing protection. She explained that many adults suffered from hearing loss because

no occupational health programs are enforced.

"One soldier I treated admitted to shooting his weapon without hearing protection," she said, adding that many factory workers also failed to safeguard their ears even though they are surrounded by loud machinery.

Hearing loss in children, however, was mostly due to genetics or disease. "When you realize this region is full of remote villages, with incomes averaging \$2 a week, it's easier to understand why resources to treat diseases like meningitis just aren't available."

The remaining two days were spent conducting more classes and fitting the school children with 152 hearing aids—a generous second donation from Starkey Hearing Aids. ■

*"In the last village,
on our last day,
2,400 people stood
in line in hopes of
seeing a doctor."*

SrA. Nicole Buntin

641st QM augments active Army again and again

Story by Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)
Photos by Spc. Crystal L. Felty
641st Quartermaster Detachment

What started out as a standard unit evaluation for the Ohio National Guard's 641st Quartermaster Detachment turned into a professional bond based on mutual respect and a common goal: purifying water for U.S. military forces.

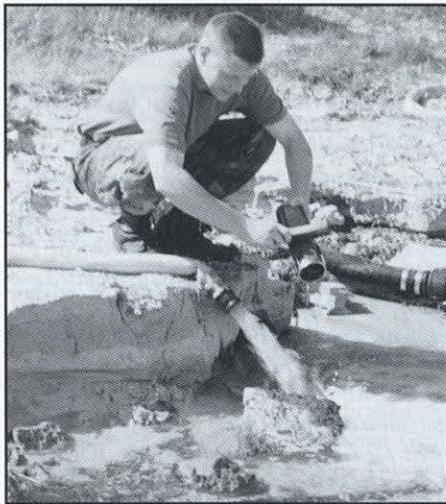
During annual training in 1997, the unit was evaluated by Capt. Mark Magalski, commander of the 19th Quartermaster Company located at Fort Story, Va. Because he was impressed with the expertise, leadership and overall professionalism of the 641st, Magalski laid the groundwork in December 1997 to have the Ohio unit augment his unit during 1998.

The first mission was to support a task force deployed in January to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

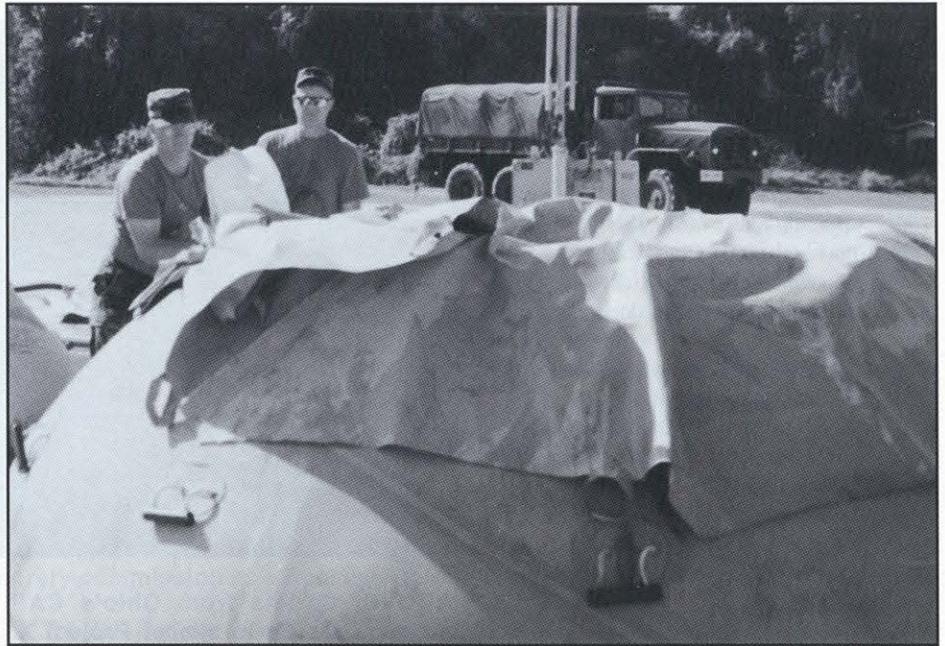
"Our mission was to augment the water operation in Cuba from Jan. 8-22," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Ripley, detachment sergeant for the 641st. "The 19th QM Company had just 'stood up' less than three months earlier, and had only five water personnel available to operate four 3,000 GPH Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPUs)."

Working on alternate annual training orders, 15 members of the unit traveled by privately owned vehicles to Fort Story, where they were flown to the renowned Marine base via Jacksonville, Fla. Set up in wooden barracks buildings, the guardmembers established shifts in order to operate 24 hours a day.

"Our training was greatly enhanced by the use of chemicals," noted Ripley. "We have not used chemicals (to purify water) since the Iowa



SPC David Lowery cleans a strainer while deployed to Puerto Rico.



SGT Chuck Gray (left) and SSG Adam Parks test purified water for potability in Cuba.

floods and Operation DESERT STORM." Chemicals are not used in traditional training situations because of the expense and potential hazards to the environment.

Ripley estimated that the water platoon had produced approximately 235,000 gallons of potable water. Magalski was so pleased that he requested that the Guard unit support the 19th QM Company in two other operations which were slated for the summer, a return to Cuba and another in Puerto Rico.

Though the second mission to Cuba was called off, 14 guardmembers headed for Puerto Rico in June to support Operation CARIBBEAN THUNDER, an Army Reserve exercise which involved approximately 3,000 troops. Equipped with two ROWPUs, the soldiers set out to purify water that was needed for drinking, showers, laundry and the mess hall.

Upon arrival at the water site at Red Beach, the unit soon realized that they had quite a job ahead of them.

"The status of the equipment was in disarray," said Staff Sgt. Shannon Zell, NCOIC of the operation. "The water point consisted of four 3,000 gallon ROWPUs—two from the active component (19th QM Co.) and two of ours, which were still secured from transport," he explained. "The active component's units were deadlined."

Members of the 641st immediately set up one of their units, and attempted to repair the air compressor system of one of the downed ones. As the days progressed, the 19th QM's equipment remained inoperable, while Guard purification units had their own share of problems.

"When we tested the water, the turbidity was found to be too high, which prompted the set up of a two-stage treatment," Zell said. To lower the level of turbidity, the presence of suspended matter, the water needed to run through the system again—the second time with chlorine. Chlorine is not used during the first stage due to possible damage to the reverse osmosis filters. Both of the Guard's ROWPUs ran this two-stage treatment throughout the operation.

The 641st's purification units had some maintenance problems as well, such as an air compressor overheating and difficulties with high pressure pumps and a faulty generator. Much time was spent troubleshooting and fixing the equipment.

"It was very good training, but not too much fun," said Spc. Heather Burton, a water purification specialist. "This was the first time I actually used chemicals," she added, explaining that chemical use is even simulated during MOS training.

In all, the unit produced approximately 95,380 gallons of water. And again, the 19th Quartermaster Company was very happy with the Guard's assistance.

"We've been invited to come back again, but funding on the active Army side is really going to determine what operations we can support," Ripley said. "The 19th has an aggressive training plan which aspires for deployments to Vietnam, Korea and Australia. But with the Army always looking to get the most bang for the buck, return trips to Cuba and Puerto Rico are most likely.

"Whatever happens, though, we're looking forward to working with them again." ■

121st ARW hosts CAP summer camp

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard

Tomorrow's military pilots may be flying as members of today's Civil Air Patrol. At least that was the hope expressed by 150 young men and women July 25 through Aug. 2, during the 1998 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Summer Encampment held at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, CAP headquarters for the state.

The Civil Air Patrol, which was conceived in the late 1930s, is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force for search and rescue missions. Usually recruited at schools, CAP's membership is comprised of youth 12-18, who are supervised by adult volunteers. The organization has several missions including coastal patrol, wartime support, aerospace education and emergency services.

With attendees welcome from an estimated 48 squadrons in Ohio, the encampment was required for cadets to earn the General Billy Mitchell Award and proceed through the program as a recognized officer. Like the Air Force, the CAP program is organized with both an enlisted and commissioned officer corps.

"The Civil Air Patrol has helped me broaden my horizons," said Tech. Sgt. Julie Berry, 16. "It's a great group for learning the basic skills you need in life."

This year's camp sought to train the cadets in three areas: aerospace technology, leadership ability and physical fitness. Set up like a mini



ABOVE: Cadets from Ohio's CAP program march to site of Project X. RIGHT: Two campers fall short of completing a litter bearing exercise.

boot camp, the cadets were instructed in following Air Force policy, protocol and standard operating procedures.

Cadets trained for 16 hours a day in classroom and field environments. Classroom instruction taught everything from customs and courtesies to search and rescue procedures. Leadership and teamwork skills were put to the test during a competency course called Project X.

Created by Master Sgt. Dick Martin, 121st Air Refueling Wing quality advisor, Project X was designed as a series of obstacles testing the cadets' ability to work as a team, and to trust and listen to each other. One exercise made cadets cross over a muddy pond on unstable barrels while carrying a stretcher with a mock casualty.

"No one person can complete these exercises," Martin said. "It is a challenge. Everyone works together as a team out here."

The cadets were separated into squadrons with each having its own mascot and cheer. The chants and songs could be heard across the base as excited cadets moved from one event to the next.

Teamwork was not only a concept cadets learned, but viewed firsthand as well.

Air National Guard members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing hosted the encampment and worked together to make sure all the members of the Civil Air Patrol were well cared for. From civil engineering digging postholes, to services preparing meals, to operations flying the youth on KC-135 refueling missions, all of the 121st helped make the camp a success.

"I love learning about the planes," said Sgt.



Andy Peters, 15. "I want to be a military pilot one day, and fly search and rescue missions."

In previous years, the camp had the cadets sleeping in tents and eating from field kitchens. The 121st's hospitality generated a better morale among the cadets and created a better environment in which the cadets could train and learn.

"It's been great to have them here," Martin said. The Civil Air Patrol and members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing hope to see the cadets return again next year.

"I've had so much fun I haven't even thought of home," Berry said. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Guardmembers who are interested in working with the Civil Air Patrol can earn extra points towards retirement. For more information on the benefits associated with assisting the Civil Air Patrol, call (614) 492-3422 or, to locate a CAP unit nearest your zip code, call 1-800-FLY-2338.

The CAP program is specifically in need of chaplains and moral leadership officers. If interested, please contact Chaplain (Maj.) George S. Kelly at HQ, Group VII, Ohio Wing, CAP, USAF Auxiliary, PSC Box 10367, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45344-5361 or e-mail questions to: cap_ch@af.mil.



Cadets run through an obstacle course while blindfolded.

Guard kicks off Red Ribbon Campaign

To help promote the national Red Ribbon Campaign, the Ohio National Guard hosted a kick-off celebration at Beightler Armory in Columbus on Oct. 15. An annual event, the campaign increases public awareness about the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

At the Guard's kick-off ceremony, personnel and employees of the Adjutant General's Department signed a drug-free pledge signifying their personal commitment to fighting the scourge of illegal drug use, and some key individuals were given special recognition.

Hope Taft was given an honorary commission as a Buckeye Colonel for her involvement in Ohio drug prevention issues.

Mrs. Taft, the wife of Ohio Governor-elect Robert Taft, has been instrumental in the formation of prevention-related organizations to include Citizens Against Substance Abuse in Cincinnati, Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth and the Ohio Alcohol and Drug Policy Alliance. Mrs. Taft also has assisted in the implementation of numerous Ohio National Guard Drug Demand Reduction programs.

Also recognized were Dr. Ken Newbury of Toledo Public Schools and Michael Magnusson of the Ohio Department of Education, both of whom received Ohio Commendation Medals. Both men are outspoken proponents of the National Guard and have assisted in the formation and implementation of Guard prevention programs in Ohio schools and communities—most notably the *Higher Ground* character development and ethical decision-making program. Thanks to the support of Newbury and Magnusson, the Ohio National Guard instructed over 900 youth in *Higher Ground* during the program's first year.

On Oct. 14, both Army and Air personnel represented the Ohio National Guard at the Ohio Statewide Red Ribbon Celebration Kick-Off, a media event that initiates Red Ribbon activities throughout Ohio.

"Awareness campaigns such as this would not be as successful without your (National Guard) support," said Patricia Harmon, executive director of Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.

The first Ohio Red Ribbon Celebration took place in 1988 and the Ohio National Guard became a major participant in 1992. This year, the Guard distributed more than 60,000 red ribbons throughout Ohio, demonstrating a commitment to being safe, healthy and drug-free.



Photo by SPC Steve Toth, HQ STARC (-).

Ohio Adjutant General MG Richard C. Alexander leads the applause for Hope Taft as she accepts her honorary commission as a Buckeye Colonel.

The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force normally is involved in the interdiction part of the war on drugs. However, each October the task force calls on the talents and enthusiasm of its personnel to go to various elementary schools and encourage children and teens to stay away from drugs.

This year the task force visited 10 schools in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbiana County to pass out ribbons and to speak to students. Task force members personally handed out more than 5,000 red ribbons. The positive reaction of the students to the National Guard's presence is the high point of the year for all the task force members involved, giving them the feeling that they're making a difference.

During each task force visit to schools, students were constantly bombarded with anti-drug messages throughout the day. Programs began with a helicopter landing at the school—with the assistance of two Army aviation support facilities, a UH-1 "Huey" landed at each school while the remaining personnel (including Safety Dog) drove out to the helicopter in military vehicles. After hearing a short speech by task force personnel, the students were escorted around the vehicles and given the opportunity to ask questions. This backdrop provided a great opportunity for guardmembers to spread the anti-drug message.

Recognition is due to all military units and personnel, family members and civilian employees who helped make the 1998 Ohio Red Ribbon Celebration one of the most successful in the event's 10-year history. *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Devin Braun, Drug Demand Reduction Office, and Maj. Robert Baylor, State Military Support Branch.*

Task Force helps fight illicit drugs

The National Guard Counterdrug Task Force has full-time personnel assigned throughout Ohio to support a variety of drug law enforcement agencies, which affords the Guard a first-hand look at drug trends in Ohio.

For many years, marijuana grown in Ohio was the drug of choice. In metropolitan areas, cocaine and heroin tend to be a greater problem for law enforcement and the community. Drug trafficking in Ohio is run by various organizations motivated by profit. As a result, the groups tend to introduce new drugs into their area of operations. Cocaine, heroin and even opium may be encountered in rural areas and now

are as prevalent as marijuana.

How does this effect you as a guardmember? You or your family may be faced with drug trafficking in your community. The violence associated with drug trafficking may hurt or even take the life of yourself or a loved one. The drugs we assist in seizing are not found somewhere else, they were seized in average Ohio communities. Drugs may be manufactured in your own neighborhood.

A drug easily made in private residences which has many potential dangers is methamphetamine. This synthetic stimulant is cheap to produce in a home lab. It is made from pseudoephedrine found in many cold and weight loss products available over the counter. Chemicals used to remove pseudo-ephedrine from these products (Drano, red phosphorous, ether and nitric acid) have legitimate purposes but are extremely toxic and explosive. Meth labs often explode, causing injury to lab workers as well as innocent bystanders.

The physical effects of methamphetamine are intense and long-lasting. Meth is particularly appealing to shift workers who perform repetitive tasks. It also appeals to women as it causes tremendous weight loss. Side effects are equally intense and rapid. Chronic abuse produces a psychosis resembling schizophrenia and is characterized by paranoia, picking at one's skin, preoccupation with one's own thoughts, and auditory and visual hallucinations. Violence and erratic behavior is common among chronic users.

As guardmembers, we are often called upon to assist our communities during disasters. A disaster you and your family face everyday is the threat of drugs. Being informed is the first step to solving this problem. *Submitted by Maj. Robert Baylor, State Military Support Branch.*

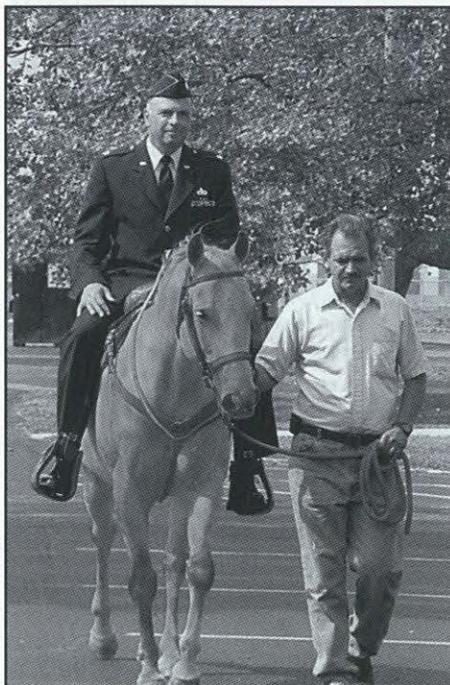


Photo by SrA. Scott Gossard, 180th Fighter Wing.

Lt. Col. Richard Brazeau, new commander of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, rides in on a horse during a change of command ceremony in September at Camp Perry.

Change of command ceremony truly horse of different color

Unit members of the 200th RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron, Camp Perry, were treated to a rather unique change of command ceremony last September.

Following military tradition of many years past, new commander Lt. Col. Richard Brazeau rode to the ceremony grounds on horseback and, once the command change was official, former commander Lt. Col. Philip Brooks departed on the same horse.

Brazeau, former civil engineering commander at the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, replaced Brooks upon his retirement in May. The ceremony was a way of celebrating the change and formally stating to the troops the continuity of command at the unit. More than 300 spectators attended, including unit and family members as well as Port Clinton area community leaders.

Both Brazeau and Brooks were presented proclamations by Port Clinton Mayor Thomas Brown. Other speakers offered fond farewells to Brooks and hopes for a successful future to Brazeau. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Workshop focuses on family readiness

Sixty-one military and family volunteers attended the State Family Readiness Conference Sept. 11-13. Opening ceremonies featured guest speakers Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, adjutant general; Maj. Gen. John Smith, assistant adjutant general for Air; and Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, Family Program director from National Guard Bureau.

During the entire weekend, Family Support group leaders from all corners of the state had the opportunity to mingle and exchange program information. Saturday was filled with workshops and briefings on subject matters such as stress on children, mobilization process, basic family support groups, volunteer management, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, legal issues and TRICARE.

The primary focus of Sunday's agenda was a presentation by newly assigned Army Guard Director of Personnel Lt. Col. Al Faber and his Deputy Director Maj. Paola O'Flaherty. Faber encouraged command emphasis on family programs and is working toward acquiring additional funds for mission accomplishment. O'Flaherty emphasized the critical need for family preparedness for possible mobilization.

State volunteer council members Sue Galchick, Tina Lee, Bonnie Swaney, Neoma Lucas, Linda Dershem and Linda Holdren deserve recognition for assisting in the agenda, classroom topics and for their valuable instruction. An additional thank you goes to the military staff who also helped: Lt. Col. Margaret Skelton, Maj. Rhonda Wright, Spc. Nita Edwards, Master Sgt. Therese Sadowski, Master Sgt. David Flook and Master Sgt. Vickie White-Callendar. *Submitted by Warrant Officer Carmen Coventry, Family Program Office.*

Air Guard unit receives Golden Ruler award

The 121st Air Refueling Wing was recently honored with the Golden Ruler award for its work with Koebel Elementary School. Brig. Gen. Robert P. Meyer Jr. accepted the award at a Columbus School Board meeting.

The nomination was forwarded by Koebel Elementary principal Steven Stone. In his nomination, Stone noted the many activities the 121st has completed with the school. He praised guardmembers' efforts at tutoring and mentoring school children and coaching the chess team.

In addition, Koebel Elementary students have taken field trips to Rickenbacker and were transported to other field trips on 121st buses.

Unit members helped the school install playground equipment during the summer, saving the school \$1,500 in contracting costs and giving the children a safer, more enjoyable place to play. Air Guardmembers served a meal during a school-wide family dinner and provided a color guard for special school events.

"All of this and more is done between flying combat support refueling missions over Bosnia, the Middle East and around the world," Stone said in a letter to Columbus school board member Dave Dobos. "Their workload increases as the military is asked to do more with less."

Stone praised the unit's willingness to "sit with little children and help them become good citizens and better students." *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Nancy Dragani, 121st Air Refueling Wing.*

178th Fighter Wing to train nation's best

Beginning in 1999, Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing will be one of only two Air National Guard units nationwide to train future F-16 pilots. The unit began its conversion in October from a combat-ready fighter unit to a unit that provides advanced flight training for F-16 pilots.

Ranging in length from three to seven months, different courses will be offered for pilots who have never flown a fighter aircraft, experienced pilots converting to or re-qualifying in the F-16 and pilots selected to become F-16 instructor pilots. The 178th projects 40 to 60 pilots will be trained in Springfield each year.

With the first class scheduled for late spring/early summer 1999, the unit will be fully qualified in its new mission by October 2000. *Submitted by Maj. Ann Coghlin, 178th Fighter Wing.*

JROTC color guards vie for top honors

The second annual Junior ROTC Color Guard Competition took place Sept. 19 at Ohio National Guard Headquarters, Beightler Armory, Columbus. Sponsored by the office of the state command sergeant major, the best high school drill teams from around Ohio once again vied for top honors.

All 18 schools in Ohio that have Junior ROTC programs were invited to participate. Six schools accepted: Lorain Southview High School (two teams), Greene Academy High School, Columbus South High School, Trotwood Madison High School (two teams), Western Hills High School and Rayen High School.

The Ohio Army National Guard and its Southern State Honor Guard Team supported the competition. The Southern Honor Guard

Team provided judges for the function. Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Powers was in charge of the judges—Sgt. 1st Class Tony W. Six, Staff Sgt. Michael E. Grove and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. Smith, all members of A Battery, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion in McConnellsville. These NCOs are among the best in the state; they received their formal training in drill and ceremonies from the Old Guard in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the competition the teams received a briefing, at which Powers talked with the team captains, walked them through the entire course and answered questions.

The marching route was set up in the armory, marked with chairs. On each chair was a sign informing captains which direction to march their team to get from point A to point B. The course markers did not tell the team what command to give, simply what direction they needed to move. Each color guard team cased and uncased the colors and displayed their uniform and accessories in their own unique way. Judges chose top placers using criteria published in Field Manual 22-5, *Drill and Ceremonies*.

Lorain Southview High School's A team, last year's winner, again took top honors in the competition. Trotwood Madison High School's A team placed second and, not to be outdone by their fellow cadets, Lorain Southview's B team was third.

The top three teams earned plaques shaped like the state of Ohio. Every cadet who participated received a certificate of excellence, signed by Ohio Army National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley. *Submitted by 1st Sgt. Tonya Minor, HQ STARC (-).*

Ohio teams host ANG softball tournament

The 251st Combat Communications Group, 269th Combat Communications Squadron and members of the 178th Fighter Wing at Springfield hosted the 33rd Annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament in Dayton, Aug. 19-23. The tourney crowned new champions in five of the six divisions of play.

Coming from as far as Alaska and Hawaii, participants formed 104 teams in the following brackets: Men's Open, Men's 35 & over, Women's Open, Fast Pitch, Men's 45 & over and Coed. Teams arrived on Wednesday for an opening party at the Air Force Museum, then played games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Kettering Field Complex.

The Ohio ANG had teams in all divisions except Fast Pitch, and units from Springfield, Rickenbacker, Mansfield and Blue Ash were all

represented in the Men's Open.

Kudos goes to the Ohio ANG Women's Team, which won the national title. This team was comprised of guardmembers from Springfield, Rickenbacker and Blue Ash. Leading the team were Airman 1st Class Becky Muncy and Tech. Sgt. Shellie Woods of the 178th FW; Tech. Sgt. Joanna Martin of the 251st CCG; Alison Bennett of the 269th CCSQ; and Kim Minor, Brenda Crumley, Sandy Kilbarger, Amy O'Brien, Kim Bradwell and Vicki Calendar of the 121st ARW. *Compiled by the State Public Affairs Office.*

OCS begins in April

The 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) will offer another Ohio Army National Guard Officer Candidate School beginning in April 1999. An orientation program will begin in February or March.

OCS is all about leadership and meeting today's demands in the military and industry which call for individuals who can lead people, manage resources and accomplish missions.

The 145th Regiment's OCS Program is certified by the active Army, with graduation resulting in federal recognition—opening the possibility for voluntary active duty service in the future. Pay benefits increase as officer candidates are immediately promoted to E-6 for pay purposes upon reporting for the initial OCS weekend.

Candidates must meet all physical, medical, education and other requirements, and complete an application to be accepted to OCS. The RTI is located in the Ohio Army National Guard Enclave at Rickenbacker International Airport, Columbus. For more information, call (614) 492-3076. *Compiled by State Public Affairs Office.*

Reunion enjoyed by all

Ohio Military Academy Officer Candidate School Class XXXV celebrated its 10-year reunion at the River Club in downtown Columbus on Sept. 26.

This reunion stood apart from those past because it invited alumni from all OCS classes. The guest list boasted such influential figures as



Courtesy photo.

The Springfield Air Guard softball team and tournament committee members pose for a photo during the 33rd annual ANG Softball Tournament held in August in Dayton.

Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, a graduate of Class IIX, and retired Col. Daniel Arnett, a graduate of Class III and the commandant of Class XXXV.

"Reunions like these rejuvenate your spirit," said Capt. David Seitz, one of the event organizers and graduate of Class XXXV. "It's good to know that everyone here tonight has one thing in common...the stuff it takes to finish a program like OCS."

According to Seitz, it took a lot of effort to coordinate the event. Capt. Buck Bramlish, Capt. Kirk Zecchini and 1st Lt. Mike Wood all shared responsibilities of putting together the reunion.

"None of us could have done this alone," Seitz said. "Tonight turned out great, but it was difficult getting here. Just like OCS, this was a great team effort." *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Jodie McFee, State Public Affairs Office.*

ONG Marathon Team accepting applicants

The 16th annual National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials are scheduled for May 2 in Lincoln, Neb.

All Ohio National Guardmembers are eligible to apply for the ONG Marathon Team, provided they have completed a marathon within certain time standards on a U.S. Track & Field-certified course within the last 18 months.

Four males and one female will be chosen to represent Ohio.

Individuals interested in applying for the team should call (614) 336-7211 or write AGOH-PF-CO (Lt. Col. J.R. Nolen), 2811 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2788 before Feb. 1, 1999. *Submitted by State Plans, Operations and Training Office.*



Photo by SrA. Scott Gossard, 180th Fighter Wing.

MSgt. James Aldridge (left) and SSgt. Kevin Schwarzkopf, both of the 180th Fighter Wing, were instrumental in the rescue of a teen-ager during annual training in Alpena, Mich.

Firefighters perform rope rescue at Alpena

During a seemingly typical annual training day in Alpena, Mich., last August, two firefighters from Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing quickly responded when they heard a 16-year-old boy had fallen into a 200-foot sinkhole nearby. The teen was conscious and suffering from external and internal wounds.

When the emergency call came in, local civilian fire fighters also responded to the scene of the accident, which was in the middle of a wooded area, nearly a mile from the closest road.

"It was a big, round hole that was formed a long time ago. Entire trees were laying down in there," described Master Sgt. Jim Aldridge, assistant fire chief of the 180th Fire Department.

Aldridge knew immediately that a rope rescue was the only way to save the boy. Since he had the most training at rope rescues and was a civilian paramedic, it was decided he would be the one to assist with the ascent with the patient on the stokes basket.

So down he went. He secured the victim's head with towel rolls, then taped him down on a backboard. But coming up was more difficult. He said the ground, which tapered off to a point, kept giving way as he and two other fire fighters were moving the patient to a lifting point. Because of the jagged wall structure and a bee hive along the wall, Aldridge and the boy had to be pulled up from a different location, complicating the rescue even more.

Waiting at the top of the sinkhole was Staff Sgt. Kevin Schwarzkopf, also of the 180th Fire Department. He said about 30 people had accu-

mulated at the scene by the time Aldridge was ready to be pulled up. Fire fighters as well as neighbors, family and friends of the boy collectively pulled the basket up to the top.

The boy was then transported to Alpena General Hospital where he was treated for a compound wrist fracture, a lacerated spleen and liver, and a skull fracture.

"It was tough but it worked out okay," Aldridge commented.

"All the guys from the departments came together real well and worked as a group. Everyone did a nice job considering none of us had

actual rope rescue experience," he admitted.

The successful rescue marked the first rope rescue for all of the firefighters, including Aldridge, whose experience was limited to extensive training.

Aldridge and Schwarzkopf have been with the 180th Fire Department 16 and 12 years, respectively. Though they're both trained in specialized rescue, the opportunities for rope rescues at the Toledo base are limited since their primary missions are crash rescues and base fire prevention.

So the real-life rescue mission at Alpena was especially gratifying, particularly since the injured teen is now back at school. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.*

Marksmanship teams compete at state level

The 1998 Ohio National Guard State Combat Matches were held Aug. 23 at Camp Perry, with soldiers and airmen from units around the state competing for top honors among the state's finest National Guard marksmen.

Tech Sgt. Richard Ebeling of the 200th RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron won the individual rifle match competition and also won among individual rifle competitors competing with the pistol.

Sgt. Bret A. Gould, Co. D, 1-147th Armored, placed first in the individual pistol competition.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Crawford of Bravo Company, 1-148th Infantry, won the sniper match individual competition. He also paired with fellow unit member Pfc. Michael Phlieger

to take the sniper match team competition.

In other team contests, the 200th RHS team of Ebeling, Master Sgt. Edward Lacroix, Staff Sgt. Matthew Michael and Staff Sgt. Alan Finger were on the mark to win the rifle team match. In the team pistol competition, top honors went to Cpl. Mark James, Staff Sgt. Brian Bowen, Spc. Mark Cox and Sgt. Thomas Greene—all of Charlie Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion. *Compiled by the State Public Affairs Office.*

Voinovich honored by NG officer association

Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander presented Gov. George V. Voinovich with the Maj. Gen. Charles Dick Medal of Merit on Sept. 28 during a cabinet meeting at the Statehouse in Columbus.

The award is given annually by the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) to recognize the contributions to the



Voinovich

National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels. Maj. Gen Charles Dick was a former member of the Ohio National Guard and a member of the U.S. Congress in the early 1900s. He authored the Dick

Act of 1903 that made the National Guard the nation's primary reserve component and a federal force (see related story on page 19).

"Governor Voinovich has been a staunch advocate of the National Guard since beginning his tenure as governor," said Alexander, who recently completed his two-year presidency of NGAUS, a Washington D.C.-based organization that represents the commissioned officers of that National Guard. "He has played a role in improving readiness nationwide."

During his first term (1990-94), the Ohio National Guard faced several challenges, including force structure turmoil brought on by the end of the cold war. Voinovich wrote several letters of support to Ohio's congressional delegation and the secretary of defense, in an effort to stabilize Ohio's force structure, which had sustained a 30 percent reduction.

As chairman of the National Governor's Association (NGA), Voinovich spearheaded efforts to strengthen the readiness of the Army and Air National Guard by challenging the Office of the Secretary of Defense to adequately

resource units. Under his leadership, the NGA increased assistance to the National Guard in its mission, and played a key role in prompting continued dialogue between the active Army and Army National Guard.

The two-term governor also took an interest in the increased operations tempo of the Guard. Following the deployment of the Ohio Guard to Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD, he commissioned an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Task Force to study the effects of increased Guard deployments on service members, their families and their employers. The initiative was the first of its kind to be undertaken by any state. *Compiled by the State Public Affairs Office.*

Former TAG inducted into Hall of Fame

Former adjutant general of Ohio and World War I veteran Maj. Gen. Chester W. Goble was one of 28 Ohio veterans inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame on Nov. 5. Representing the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, the veterans were recognized for not only their military achievements, but also for their civic and community accomplishments and work for veterans programs.

After World War I, Goble was a member of the National Guard before transferring to the 37th Division Headquarters where he was appointed as the division finance officer in 1923. In 1940, he was inducted on active duty as the property and dispersing officer for Ohio, and assumed the duties of the procurement and contracting officer for the Ohio Selective Service, where he became director a year later.

A Capital University graduate, Goble was promoted to major general in 1947 and appointed to the position of state adjutant general by then-Gov. Thomas J. Herbert. He served in that capacity until 1949, and after serving as adjutant general, Goble remained active in military and veterans affairs as director for the World War II and Korea Bonus Commission. Goble also continued his service to Ohio when then-Gov. James Rhodes appointed him state auditor in 1964.

A lifetime member of the American Legion, VFW and the Retired Officers Association, the general remained an advocate for veterans affairs programs until his death in 1975.

Goble's induction into the Hall of Fame is a posthumous honor, and was accepted by David Bradley, director of the Franklin County Veterans Services Office. Bradley was very instrumental in making sure that one of the Ohio National Guard's own was not forgotten. *Submitted by Sgt. Steve Johnson, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.*

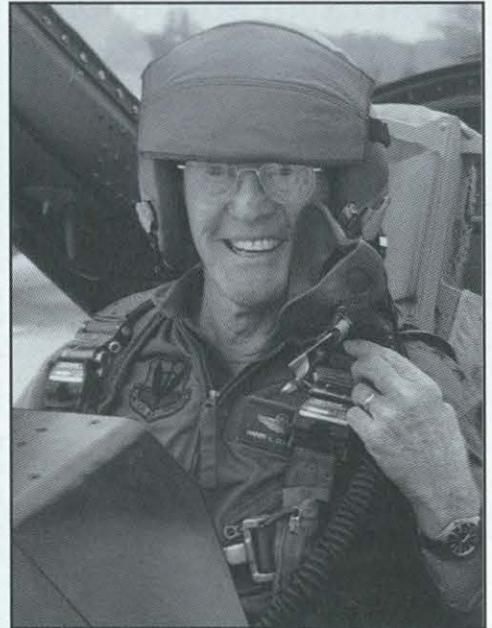


Photo by MSgt. Joe Stahl, 178th Fighter Wing.

Former OHANG Chief of Staff Harry Cochran enjoyed his F-16D incentive flight in August.

Retired officer proves age does not matter

If John Glenn proved age doesn't matter, Harry Cochran is joining the bandwagon. At age 74, Cochran may be the oldest person ever to take an F-16D incentive flight in Ohio.

On Aug. 14, Cochran got the ride of a lifetime when he joined members of the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, for a routine training mission. For Cochran, the F-16 flight was just the newest accomplishment in his already impressive flying career.

Cochran, known to many as retired Maj. Gen. Cochran, was chief of staff for Ohio's Air National Guard from 1980 to 1983. With a Guard career that started in 1947, he has flown virtually every fighter that Ohio has been assigned. His military career spans such events as World War II and the Berlin Crisis.

"I like to fly airplanes," said Cochran of his lengthy commitment to the armed services.

Though his military career ended in May 1983, his flying career did not. As a flight instructor at the Wright Patterson Aero Club, he stays busy teaching future pilots the ins and outs of the Piper aircraft.

But his hobbies aren't just limited to airplanes. Cochran keeps in shape by running three miles a day, five times a week. He also enjoys hunting and fishing. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Avengers achieve awards



Courtesy photo.

Bill Costello (from left) presents SSG Todd Hensley with the Malta-McConnellsville Volunteer Fire Department Paramedic of the Year award while SGT Dana Moler receives the Volunteer EMT of the Year award from Chief Terry Bragg.

Guardmembers honored for volunteer fire service

Two full-time members of 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion, McConnellsville, were recently recognized for their volunteer service to the Malta-McConnellsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Staff Sgt. Todd Hensley received the department's "Paramedic of the Year" award, while Sgt. Dana Moler accepted the "Volunteer EMT of the Year" award. Both are Active Guard/Reserve soldiers who spend their off hours helping out the local fire department, which has a limited staff.

The awards were presented by Fire Chief Terry Bragg and Bill Costello, both members of the fire department and the Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. *Submitted by Master Sgt. Roger D. Burnett, OHARNG State Retention NCO.*

West Point education possible for soldiers, sons, daughters

While many considering college are only just beginning to seek out opportunities, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is in full swing recruiting a new class.

This class will graduate more than 20 percent of the new Army second lieutenants to be commissioned in 2003. While many recognize the contribution of West Point to the nation's defense, two categories of potential candidates are often overlooked: soldiers, and sons and daughters of career military personnel.

Competition for admission to West Point is very high and requires not only qualification in academic, medical and physical areas, but a nomination as well. Most candidates know about congressional nominations, however, service-connected nominations also are available.

Basic eligibility is the same for all candidates: be at least 17 years old but not yet 23 on July 1 of the year entering the U.S. Military Academy; be a U.S. citizen; not be married, pregnant, or with legal responsibilities to support a child. Candidates also should be high school graduates at the time of entry, be of high moral character and have a sincere interest in attending West Point and becoming an Army officer.

Soldiers who meet the basic requirements are eligible for service-connected nominations with a recommendation from their unit commander. This category includes Regular Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers who have completed at least Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Soldiers who do not qualify academically for West Point may be considered for the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School first.

Presidential nominations are service-connected nominations available to sons and daughters of career military personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—active, retired or deceased. The term "career" includes members of the active and reserve components currently serving eight or more years of continuous active duty and reserve retirees receiving either retired or retainer pay. Students requesting a presidential nomination need to provide a Statement of Service for the qualifying parent (available from the personnel section) or a copy of the retirement orders or casualty report, with a letter formally

requesting a presidential nomination.

A nomination is not a guarantee of an offer of admission. Though there is no limit to the number of presidential nominations available, for example, only 100 candidates with this type of nomination may receive an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy for any given class. Only 85 Regular Army soldiers and 85 Reserve/National Guard soldiers with service-connected nominations may receive appointments. For this reason, students should also request nominations from their members of Congress (based on their homes of record) and from any other sources available to them.

For more information, visit the USMA web page at <http://www.usma.edu/Admissions>; call (914) 938-4041 (DSN 688-4041); or write to: Director of Admissions, U.S. Military Academy, 606 Thayer Road, West Point, N.Y. 10996-1797. (*Army News Service*)

Phone cards available free through VFW

Soldiers, other service members and hospitalized veterans can "reach out and touch someone" for free, thanks to a Veterans of Foreign Wars calling-card program.

"Operation Uplink," now in its third year, is operated by the VFW "because we feel service men and women need some form of appreciation," said VFW Special Programs/Projects Manager Joanne Dickerson.

"To date, we've distributed 133,000 'Uplink' cards (to service members and veterans) worldwide," Dickerson said. "This represents about 43,000 hours of free call time."

"Uplink" cards guarantee a minimum of 10 minutes of free talking time from domestic or overseas points of origin, Dickerson said. Cards are available at no charge or obligation to all service members and veterans enrolled in Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Service members often have "Uplink" phone cards in their pockets as they're being deployed to places like Bosnia, according to Dickerson.

The calling cards are available through VFW's national headquarters, but state and local VFW posts and ladies' auxiliaries are "encouraged to distribute them at VA hospitals or military bases, regardless of branch of service," Dickerson said. VFW ladies' auxiliaries, she said, accomplish a lot of calling card distribution efforts.

"Some of the (military) bases are leery of us, but there is no 'sell' in these cards; we don't try to sell anybody anything. We usually work

though installation public affairs offices. They take (the request) through the chain of command for us," she said.

Service members and veterans also can order "Operation Uplink" calling cards by e-mailing Dickerson at dickerson@vfw.org. Cards can also be ordered by accessing the VFW website at www.vfw.org. (*Army News Service*)

Gulf vets, families eligible for scholarship

The VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association (DSVA) is accepting scholarship applications for the 1999 school year.

In continuing its efforts to assist DSVA veterans and their families, the association will award at least two \$2,000 scholarships. Applicants must have served or be a family member of those who served with VII Corps in Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM or PROVIDE COMFORT.

Applications can be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope to VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association, Attn.: Scholarship Committee, 9140 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo. 64114. Applications also can be obtained by e-mail at calderons@army.pentagon.mil. Completed applications must be submitted to DSVA by Jan. 15, 1999. (*VII Corps DSVA*)

Education Notes:

◆RCEP tests available

The new Regents College Examination Program (RCEP) is now available. The RCEP, formerly known as American College Testing Proficiency Examination Program (ACT PEP), measures knowledge at the associate, baccalaureate and graduate levels in the arts and sciences, business, education and nursing. Soldiers may use the same study materials to prepare for a test as they did for the ACT PEPs. For more information, call 1-888-400-6484.

◆Beware of phony test prep services

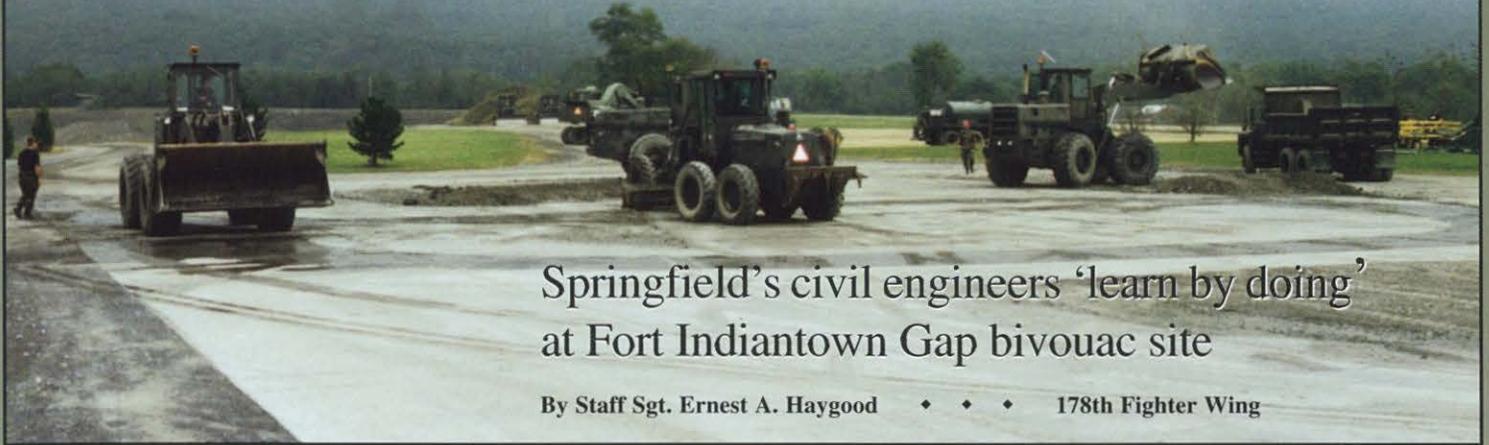
Unscrupulous salespeople have been offering college test preparation materials to military personnel. Service members are being targeted because they may "test-out" of numerous college subjects by studying independently.

The salesperson offers college test study materials costing more than \$2,600. When the materials are received, the guardmember finds that the materials are useless and out of date. If voiding the contract is attempted, the salesperson threatens to report them to a credit agency.

Guardmembers should contact the Education Services Office for advice on the value of a questionable program. (*Adjutant General's Department Education Services Office*)



Rapid Runway Repair



Springfield's civil engineers 'learn by doing' at Fort Indiantown Gap bivouac site

By Staff Sgt. Ernest A. Haygood ♦ ♦ ♦ 178th Fighter Wing

Civil engineers from Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing recently returned from a combat zone—not in Bosnia or any of the other countries receiving contingency support from American forces, but right in the continental United States. The guardmembers deployed in September to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., for a four-day training mission which emphasized their war skills specialty training.

The contingent of 60 troops, 20 instructors and three services technicians participated in their second consecutive exercise as part of the Prime BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) Program—what's intended to be an annual practice.

"Basically, the war skills training breaks down into two main categories," said Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Babjak, civil engineer manager. "They are 'Recovery After Attack' and 'Bedding Down of Troops.'"



MSgt. Barry Parrett (left) and SSgt. Doyle Hayes set up a Mobile Aircraft Arresting System.

The former concerns rapid repairs to bomb-damaged runways following an enemy attack. The troops use 30- by 60-foot sections of quarter-inch lightweight fiberglass matting to ensure quick repairs and minimal damage to delicate landing gear of aircraft like the F-16, the primary weapon system of the 178th.

Bedding Down of Troops is much more involved. The engineers provide a variety of functions, supporting troops in what is termed a "complete field environment." Mobile Aircraft Arresting Systems (MAAS), Emergency Airfield Lighting Systems (EALS), Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPU) and field shower units constitute some of the mission performance standards and personal comforts provided.

Babjak observed with satisfaction that the unit is better prepared today than ever before in his 20 years with the Air National Guard. "Training emphasizes war skills," he said. "The comfort level is greatly increased and the training is vastly improved in that we use actual instructors in the field for vital hands-on training instead of classroom lessons using VCR tapes."

"The idea of taking four days to train is great," said Master Sgt. Kerry C. Kern, civil engineering first sergeant. "It allows us all to stay focused with no interference from the Guard UTA (unit training assembly)."

Babjak pointed out that with the steady reduction in the active duty forces, the Guard's role in Prime BEEF has become that much more important. "Wright-Patterson Air Force Base no longer even has a Prime BEEF," he said.

"We now make up a substantial part of this critical training. Deployments today are very likely due to this. We'll rotate in on two-week deployments to help relieve active duty troops."

The engineering troops worked the entire four days in the realistic environment, practicing and perfecting their craft under the instructors' watchful eyes. "Four days is just the right time frame," Kern said. "Any longer, and guys start to get bored.



Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Shop members set up temper tent.

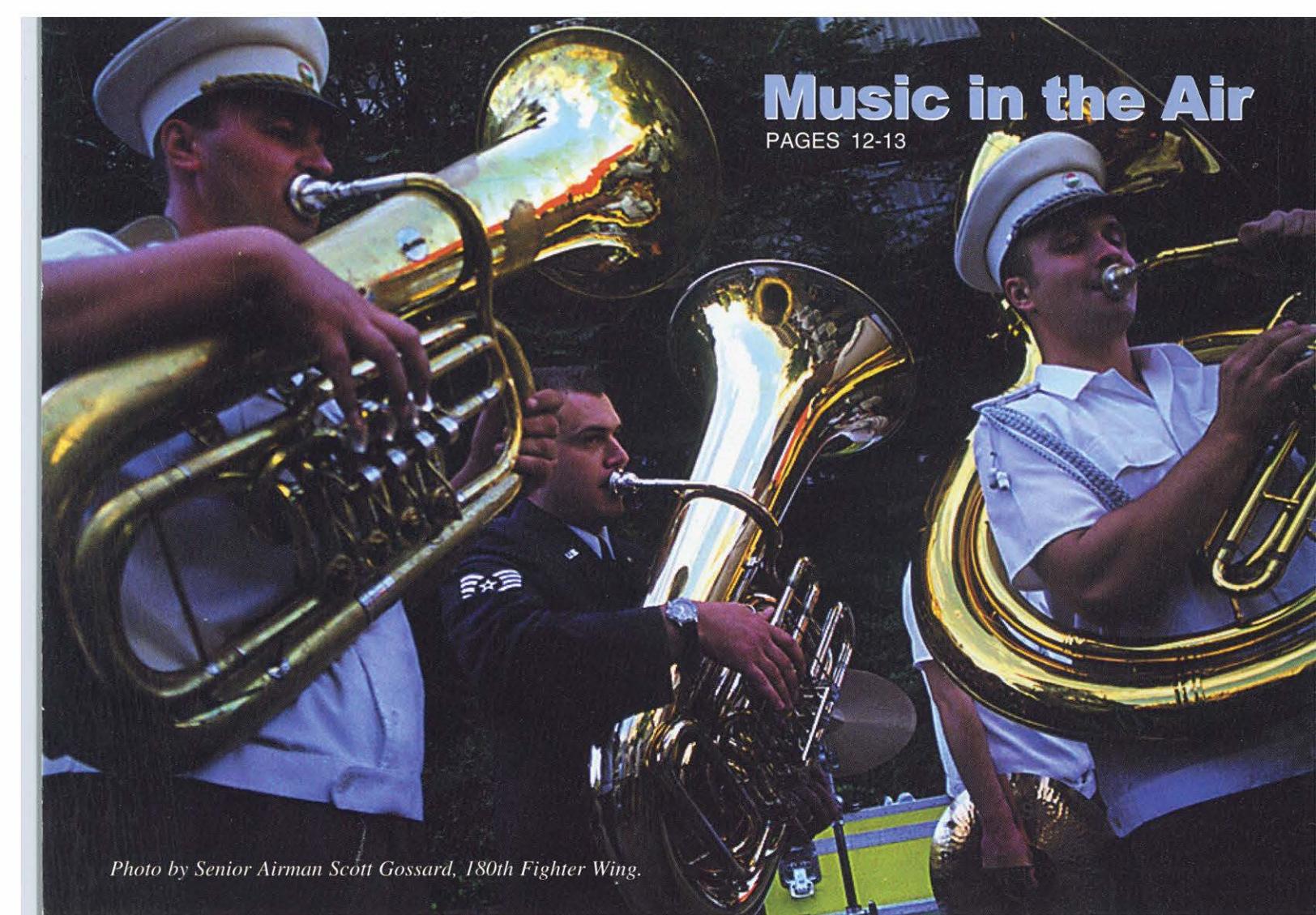
Since they're confined to the training site, my job is primarily morale. We brought lots of sports equipment with us, and next year we'd like to bring videos and a television with a VCR in it with us."

Babjak was very proud of all the airmen, but he especially praised the three service technicians who supported the mission. Master Sgt. Rich Hyden and Tech. Sgts. Hampton Wolfe and James Whittaker toiled from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day to provide meals and comfort to the troops in the field.

"Those guys were super," Babjak said. "We couldn't have made it without them." Kern agreed. "Morale was very high due in part to their efforts. They saw to it that the troops were served high-quality food and didn't want for anything," he said.

The troops reflected a positive image of the Guard during the bivouac. "Folks living in Fort Indiantown Gap were impressed," Kern said. "They've invited us back for the exercise again next year. This time, hopefully, we'll get to set up for a whole week to meet our annual requirement as well as train on the latest equipment. The stuff is in short supply, but we've got to keep abreast of our active duty counterparts."

The open spots for the training are competitive, with other units clamoring to take advantage of what it offers, but Babjak hopes to get back to Fort Indiantown Gap on an annual basis. "This type of hands-on experience is the best training there could be for civil engineering units in the Guard," the chief said. "It exemplifies my favorite quality when it comes to training: learning by doing." ■



Music in the Air

PAGES 12-13

Photo by Senior Airman Scott Gossard, 180th Fighter Wing.

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